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MARTLET

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Victoria Masquerade Ball donates profits to Stephen Lewis Foundation

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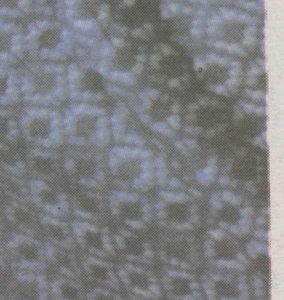

UVSS divided on support for anti-war rally

by Courtney Tait

Due to a divided vote, the UVSS won't be supporting an anti-war rally at Centennial Square Oct. 28.

A motion to endorse the upcoming Canada Out of Afghanistan rally failed to pass at the UVSS board meeting Sept. 25 after a vote between directors resulted in a 6-6 tie.

The motion, put forward by the campus organization Students Against War, requested that the UVSS show support by permitting the use of their logo on posters advertising the demonstration.

The vote followed a lengthy debate during which some members expressed concern about the UVSS representing students' political views.

"It is unreasonable to expect the board of directors to decide on the beliefs of the entire student body on such a controversial issue," said Conrad Field, a UVSS director-at-large who opposed the motion, after the meeting.

Field also said that while the society is pro-peace, Canada's military presence in Afghanistan is "an issue which is not clear whether any particular action will result in an increase or reduction in violence."

Historically the UVSS has supported anti-war demonstrations, including a 2003 tent city erected on campus grounds in protest of the Iraq war. In March 2006 the society endorsed a rally organized by a local group supporting war resisters that promoted a national campaign to sponsor U.S. soldiers seeking asylum in Canada.

Director of Finance Jamie Strachan voted in favour of the motion. At the meeting, he drew attention to a UVSS policy that supports Canada's withdrawal from NATO, the military alliance in command of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Director of Academics Jeremy David Peters, who opposed the motion, pointed out that the policy was adopted 14 years ago.

"I do not think I was elected [to the UVSS Board] because of my political views," said Peters later. "No one was campaigning about these issues."

While the chairperson has the option to break a tie during a vote, UVSS chair Penny Beames opted not to.

"That was a tough one for me," said Beames, whose stepfather served in Afghanistan in the Canadian military. "I didn't want my personal experience to be the deciding factor in that vote."

Students Against War resurrected itself this fall after being dormant since late 2003. Spokesperson Andrew Barry said that awareness is one of the biggest goals of the group. "Whether that is done through having rallies, bringing guest speakers, tabling, or word of mouth, talk about politics is much-needed on a university campus," Barry said.

The decision not to back the rally was "unfortunate," according to Barry. He acknowledged, however, that the UVSS could have valid reasons for not getting involved.

"They've sponsored just about every other war rally in Victoria," he said.

October marks the fifth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. Troops were deployed there soon after the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S., and the Canadian military's involvement has steadily increased since. A poll conducted by the Strategic Counsel in July 2006 suggested that 56 per cent of Canadians oppose the government's decision to send troops to Afghanistan. This September the government committed to sending additional troops, for a total deployment of 2,500 soldiers. Forty-one Canadians—40 soldiers and one diplomat—have been killed in Afghanistan since late 2001.

So far 12 local groups, including the War Resisters and the Victoria Peace Coalition, are endorsing the rally, which will begin at noon at Centennial Square. Spearheaded by the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA), the nation-wide protest will take place in 17 cities.

Beames has agreed to speak at the rally, but will do so from a personal standpoint, rather than as a representative of the UVSS.

ANNA CZOLPINSKI PHOTO

A member of the naval boarding party demo team simulating a search at Navy Days. The Canadian military is operating in Afghanistan, and Students Against War wants the troops to come home.

University of Victoria Students' Society / Canadian Federation of Students Local 44

U V S S

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19, 2006 - 3:00pm, CINECENTA

• AGENDA •

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **APPROVAL OF CHAIR**
3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
   a. **Agenda of 06/10/19 AGM**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
   a. **Minutes of 05/10/20 AGM**
   b. **Minutes of 06/02/16 SAGM**
5. **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.2
BIRT Bylaw 10.2 be amended to read as follows:
10.2 Leaves of Absence
Directors shall be permitted to take leaves of absence during the summer to facilitate co-op, work, or any school related activity that removes the Director from the Greater Victoria area.

Motion to amend Bylaw 10.3
BIRT Bylaw 10.3 be amended to read as follows:
10.3 Absences from Board of Directors' Meetings

a. A Director who has missed four (4) Board meetings throughout her term without prior notice to the Board of Directors, except in the case of illness, shall be considered to have resigned.
   i. Written warning shall be provided to a Director upon missing the third meeting without prior notice.
   ii. The Director shall be considered to have resigned upon adjournment of the first meeting missed without prior notice after having received written warning.
   iii. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.
   iv. In the case that Directors' meetings must be scheduled on short notice, all reasonable efforts shall be made to notify all Directors. If a Director misses a meeting scheduled on short notice without submitting regrets, the Director may be excused of her absence if she can demonstrate that she was unable to receive notice of the meeting missed.

b. Directors must attend 50% of Board meetings throughout the Fall and Spring terms.
   i. This bylaw applies to Board meetings scheduled during the Fall and Spring term as set by the Board at the beginning of its term.
   ii. After December, a Board member who has missed 50% or more of Board meetings will be issued a final written warning. If her cumulative attendance falls below 50% after having received written warning, she will be considered to have resigned.
   iii. The Director will be considered to have resigned at the adjournment of the meeting, following final written notice, at which her attendance falls below 50%.
   iv. Resignation shall be communicated to the Director in writing.

Motion to amend Bylaw 18.3
BIRT Bylaw 18.3.c. be amended as follows:
WHEREAS currently constituency groups must hold a general meeting to appoint any Board representative; and
WHEREAS this process is time consuming, potentially expensive, and generally excessive, and as a result, many of the positions sit empty; therefore
BIRT if a Board representative from any advocacy group resigns from office, the advocacy group's governing body may appoint a member as an interim representative, to sit on the Board until the next scheduled general meeting.

6. **REPORTS**
   a. **Board of Directors Report**
   Motion to adopt the report of the Board of Directors
   BIRT the October 2006 report of the Board of Directors be adopted as presented.
   b. **Directors at Large Reports**
   Motion to adopt the reports of the Directors at Large
   BIRT the reports of the Directors at Large be adopted as presented.
7. **FINANCIAL MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Motion to adopt the budget
BIRT the 2006/2007 Budget of the University of Victoria Students' Society – Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students – be adopted as presented.

Motion to adopt the audited financial statements
BIRT the 2005/2006 audited financial statements be adopted as presented.

Motion to re-appoint the auditors
BIRT the firm of Allen & Krauel Inc. be appointed as the official auditors of the University of Victoria Students' Society – Local 44 of the Canadian Federation of Students – for the fiscal year of 2006/2007.

Motion to compensate Mike Waters
WHEREAS the UVSS Board of Directors on May 4, 2006, passed a motion finding suspect the conduct of the 2005-2006 Board of Directors with regards to the 2006 UVSS election, and more specifically the treatment of Mike Waters; and
WHEREAS it would be prudent for the UVSS to make financial reparations to Mike Waters to rectify the situation; therefore
BIRT the legal fees awarded against Mike Waters to Penny Beames be paid by the UVSS.
BIFRT the legal fees awarded against Mike Waters to the UVSS be paid by the UVSS.

8. **QUESTION PERIOD (limit 30 minutes)**
9. **OTHER BUSINESS**
10. **NOTICE OF MOTION**
11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Upper crust dons Baroque masks for AIDS

Stephen Lewis visits Victoria Masquerade Ball to raise money for foundation and stressed that AIDS should be a concern for everyone

by Dock Currie

Stephen Lewis, former leader of the Ontario NDP and current Special Envoy to the UN for HIV/AIDS in Africa, spoke this past weekend on world poverty and AIDS at the Fairmont Empress while attending the annual Victoria Masquerade Ball.

His comments were concise and mostly directed at garnering the attention of the affluent Victorians in attendance, but Lewis noted that the AIDS epidemic must be seen as a problem for everyone, not just those in a position to give financially. And, according to Lewis, university students are in a particularly advantageous position to help the rest of the world.

More than 260 heavily costumed attendees paid almost $100 each for the chance to dress up and see Stephen Lewis speak. The Victoria Masquerade Ball is the brainchild of local artist John Vickers. This past weekend was the second time Vickers has organized the event.

"I had this idea of a masquerade ball, and I thought that if I could get an Inner Harbour hotel and some great music behind me, then I could attract a lot of people, and that's what happened last year," said Vickers.

"We raised $10,000 last year, so we were hoping to more than double that."

The event, from which all proceeds went to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, was sponsored by the A-Channel television network and was hosted by local weatherman and A-Channel manager Bruce Williams.

"I've been a long-time admirer of what [Lewis] stands for," said Williams after delivering the opening comments for the ball. "The integrity that he brings to whatever he does.... He's a very ethical man, a very dedicated man, and he's very passionate about what he does."

Lewis was introduced with a bevy of accolades, including having been Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, being a companion to the Order of Canada and having recently joined the social sciences faculty at McMaster University as a scholar-in-residence. When it was finally pointed out in his introduction that Lewis did, however, have flaws, Lewis lifted his head and exclaimed, "Thank God."

In his address, Lewis tried to make clear to those in attendance his view that the AIDS crisis is a result of negligence by the international community and is not inevitable. In one particularly stirring moment, he cited statistics on the cost of the Iraq war as compared to the money spent on combating AIDS and wondered why the two were so disproportionate.

Following Lewis's speech, there was an auction to benefit the Stephen Lewis Foundation, in which several items fetched well over $1,000 each. One such piece was by Vancouver Island artisan Arthur Vickers, who received an honorary doctorate from UVic this year. But the affluent crowd in attendance at the ball isn't, according to Lewis, the only demographic he is trying to reach.

"I really get a kick out of university students," Lewis said after his address. "They're highly informed, they're engaged, and there's a kind of renaissance amongst university students, particularly amongst the young women."

When asked what the best way to get involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS is, Lewis said that, while mobilizing and organizing against AIDS domestically is admirable, it's university students who want to go over and make a contribution in the affected countries.

"The real thing is to get attached to one of major non-governmental organizations—to do some work for CARE, Save the Children, Doctors without Borders, World Vision or in the UN with UNICEF ... to find an organization, even my little foundation, to which you can dedicate yourself."

WILLIE LI PHOTO

The best costumed couple at the second annual Victoria Masquerade Ball strut their stuff at the Fairmont Empress.

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Stephen Lewis, the UN Special Envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa, speaks to a ballroom full of masked guests.

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Hansen skirts homeless issue

by Dock Currie

In the run-up to the 2010 Olympics, B.C. municipalities watch as homelessness is outsourced from Vancouver to smaller communities.

During a talk at the University of Victoria on Oct. 3, Colin Hansen, minister of economic development, was questioned about his role in the ongoing outsourcing of homelessness.

Hansen, who is the minister in charge of the Olympics and also the minister responsible for the Asia-Pacific initiative, was speaking at UVic on the role of the university in the development of policy relating to the Pacific region when questions were raised about his culpability in the province-wide increase in homelessness.

A study done by the Pivot Legal Society of Vancouver last month found that, if nothing is done, the number of homeless in Vancouver will triple by 2010, reaching 3,200 people.

Outsourcing homelessness means that the cost of infrastructure needed to deal with such an influx would be borne by less urbanized or gentrified areas of British Columbia such as Victoria, Nanaimo, Kelowna or Surrey. Additionally, these areas become home to homeless people who migrate from Vancouver to these smaller communities.

The official count of homeless people in Victoria currently is 700, as recorded by the Cool Aid Society of Victoria, but according to Sgt. Jamie Pearce of the Victoria Police, that number is now closer to 900. Moreover, Pearce stated earlier this year that the increase in homelessness in Victoria was a result of an unprecedented migration of homeless from Vancouver, likely due to police brutality.

Vancouver police, however, dismissed the suggestion of improper use of force immediately.

“We don’t crack down on homeless, we crack down on criminals,” said Const. Howard Chow of the Vancouver Police Department.

Asked whether he thought it was the role of his department to address these projected increases and migrations of homeless, which the Pivot Legal Society has suggested is a result of the 2010 Olympics, Hansen opted not to take responsibility.

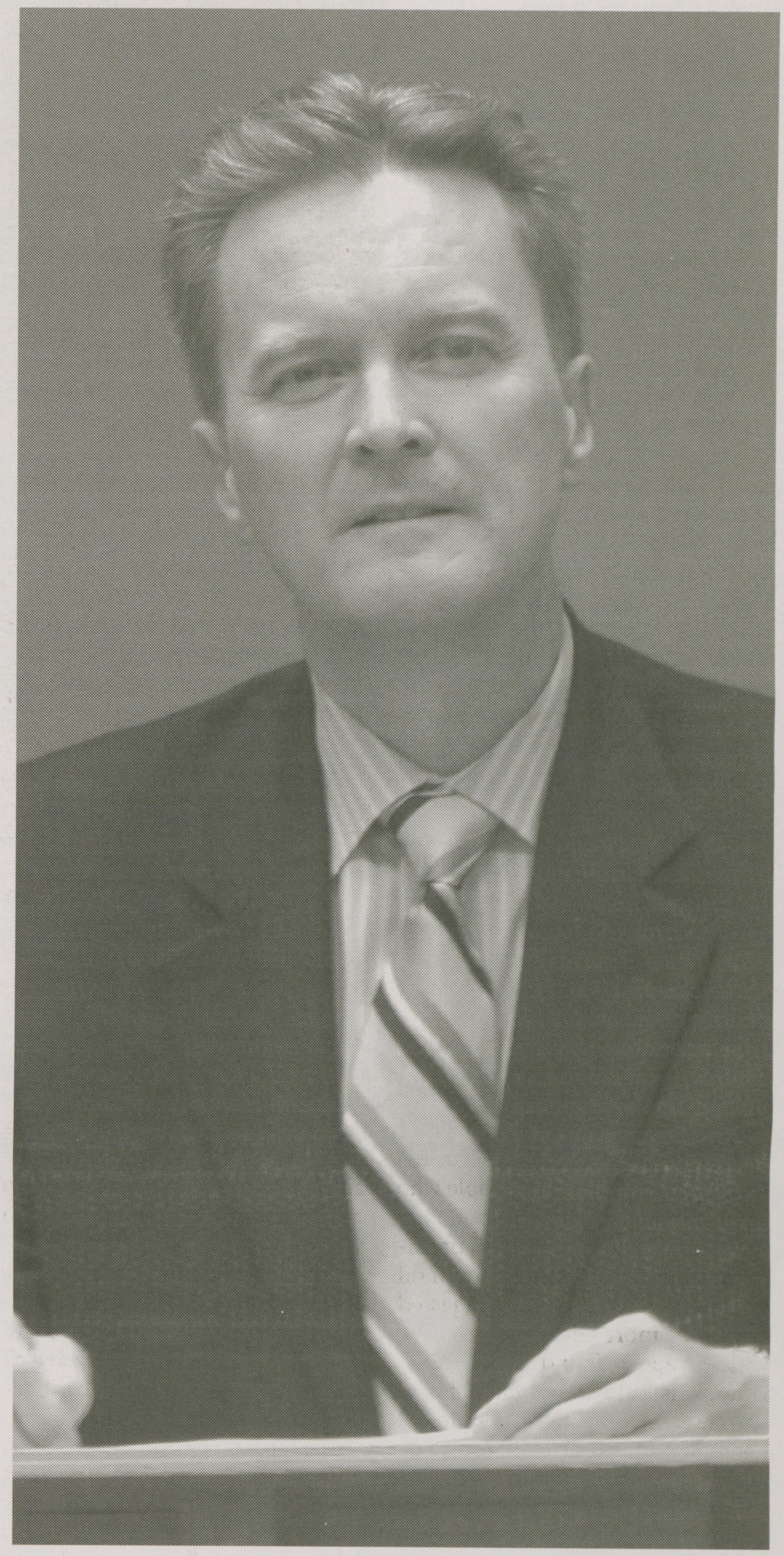

PHOTO BY DOCK CURRIE

Colin Hansen, minister of economic development, was questioned about homelessness in light of the upcoming Olympics.

“Homelessness today is one of our biggest challenges,” said Hansen. “It’s only going to go away. Well, it’s not going to go away, but it’s only going to be tackled, I think, by a real concerted effort across all levels of government.”

Hansen also suggested that the problem of homelessness might simply be the result of a failure in British Columbia’s economic structuring.

“When you start to see the unemployment rate drop to record lows in the province, and you see the opportunities for people to get into the workforce, I find that one of the great tragedies is when you have someone who is employable but can’t get into the workforce.”

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Turns out, all the B.C. kids are smoking pot

Studies claim British Columbians smoke more pot than the average Canadian

by Matthew Gauk

PROVIDED PHOTO

A new UVic study says marijuana is readily available in B.C. and that attitudes towards it are more relaxed than the rest of Canada.

You'd better sit down for this one—we smoke a lot of pot.

Fifty-two per cent of British Columbians have used cannabis, as opposed to 44 per cent of the rest of Canadians, according to a recent report published by UVic's Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. (CARBC). The report, entitled "Cannabis Use in British Columbia," was based on numbers from the 2004 Canadian Addiction Survey.

The report looked at use, perceptions and public opinion of cannabis in this province and the rest of Canada.

CARBC research associate and co-author of the report Jodi Sturge found that the results confirmed what the scientific community already suspected. In fact, she would have predicted an even more dramatic difference between B.C. and the rest of Canada.

"We kind of have to think that people are using this drug, in British Columbia especially more than other places, and it's not going to go away," Sturge said. "If they're going to use it, maybe you have to think of policies that make it safer to use."

Sturge gives Australia as an example of a place where people who would otherwise be prosecuted for cannabis use are given penalties, such as tickets, as a method of intervention that she suggested might be more effective.

The report found British Columbians tend to use cannabis at home, and that more people report that they didn't pay for marijuana the last time they used it.

"This indicates the relaxed views people have towards the drug and that it's more widely available in social groups here," said Sturge. British Columbians were also more likely to say that cannabis had a lower level of risk. "When you're looking at the last cannabis purchase, more people in B.C. purchase around seven grams and the rest of Canada was around two-and-a-half," Sturge said. "So people are buying in bulk or in greater quantities."

Many facets of cannabis use are almost the same in B.C. as in the rest of Canada, however. The average age of first use in the province is 18.6 years of age, compared to 18.9 years elsewhere, even while accessibility and prevalence of use is much higher in B.C. The number of people who drive under the influence of cannabis is also similar.

"So it's funny because the views are different, and the market is different and so on and so forth, however; the use is not much different," said Sturge.

According to the report, people aged 35 to 44 were more likely to have tried using marijuana than 15- to 20-year-olds. The use among older people was likely to be more moderate than those who are younger.

"I'm kind of curious, too, whether the people using it daily are using it for medicinal purposes and so on," said Sturge. "There hasn't been any psychological investigation into [the respondents]."

The report cited another study, done by the Fraser Institute, that found the B.C. cannabis industry contributed to between one and 2.8 per cent of the provincial GDP in 2000, amounting to $130 billion. It also stated that taxing cannabis could contribute approximately $2 billion in revenue to the province.

Despite the fact that it's a Centre for Addictions Research, there was no mention of addiction in the report. Sturge said that the name of their group is a little misleading and that they look at substance use in general.

"I think [the report] is good for an evidence-based debate," Sturge said. "If you went to see some health policy officials, you could say, 'These are your users, this is how they're using it, this is how often they're using it.' It's an informed way of developing a policy."

Sturge sees a growing rate in Canada in the use of cannabis with other drugs and driving under the influence of cannabis.

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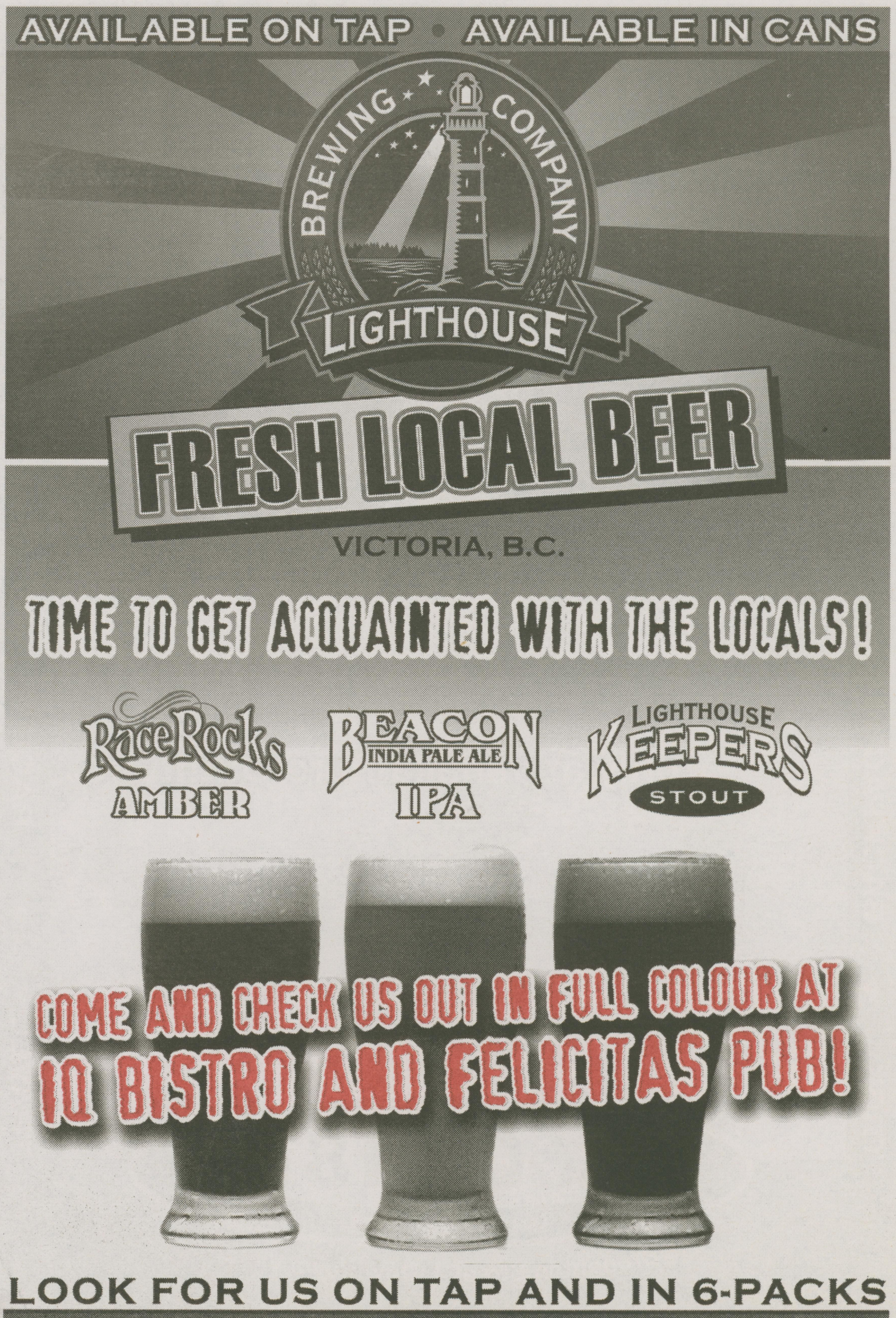
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Deregistered pesticides poison to tree, bird, moose and human

by Kim Armstrong

The province's battle against bugs faces more than insect-related problems.

The pesticide monosodium methanearsonate (MSMA), an arsenic acid used as a weed killer in cotton plantations in the United States, was also used to control the mountain pine beetle epidemic in B.C. forests until December 2005. At that point, the B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range banned further use of the chemical in their efforts to control the beetle epidemic.

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) discontinued the product (Glowon MSMA) this past August, and its manufacturer took Glowon MSMA off the market. Under PMRA regulations, remaining supplies of the deregistered chemical can still be used until expiry in 2008.

"It was re-evaluated in 2003 as part of its re-evaluation of pesticides registered before 2005," said PMRA representative Jen Povros. "As part of this, we had requested that the registrant submit additional data for evaluation. The registrant declined this for business reasons, and decided to discontinue the registration and sale of MSMA."

This is good news to activist and Smithers resident Dr. Josette Weir, who objects to the use of MSMA on the grounds that it is unsafe. As an arsenic compound, MSMA is a carcinogen and a teratogen, which means that it can cause both cancer and birth defects. Weir is concerned about what the pesticide is doing to both the environment and to people.

MSMA is most readily absorbed into an animal's system through the skin, lungs and liver. A study by Canadian Wildlife Services saw high levels of the arsenic (found in MSMA) in woodpeckers, mountain chickadees and nuthatches, as well as among beetles and other insects. Furthermore, many of the pine beetles were still alive, which Weir said indicates a resistance to the pesticide that is obviously entering the food chain.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

Mountain chickadees are sensitive to pesticides such as MSMA.

Weir, a pediatrician by training, is also worried about native communities, and specifically native children, who look to the land for a significant portion of their diet and who could be affected by berries that pick up MSMA from the soil. Moose and other animals ingest MSMA through the food chain, or directly from the treated trees themselves, drawn by the salty taste of the pesticide.

Because of the way that Glowon MSMA was removed from the market, PMRA does not consider it to be a potentially dangerous product.

"This is based on PMRA practice for voluntary discontinuation and this is not risk-driven," said Povros. "There is no evidence of unacceptable risk to human health or the environment when the product is used according to label directions."

Manufacturers can choose to withdraw their products for a multitude of reasons, and most of those reasons don't have to do with the safety of the product itself. But because the re-evaluation of Glowon MSMA was not completed, as its manufacturer chose not to submit requested information and to withdraw the product instead, PMRA's information is based on old evaluations and is not necessarily accurate.

The B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range will be participating in a committee that will meet in January 2007 to discuss what to do with the thousands of MSMA-treated trees still standing in provincial forests. Weir will be a member of that committee.

"If you leave the tree standing, you are affecting the woodpeckers—nature's own control system [for the pine beetles]; if you cut them and leave them on the ground, there are other woodpeckers that will go after downed trees, and it's still entering the food chain, and if you cut them and burn them, you expose communities and workers to a different form of arsenic [in the smoke] that is also very toxic," Weir said. "We already know there is no solution."

NEWS BRIEFS

Make Poverty History

Stand Up to Make Poverty History is an international potluck hosted by the Rotoract Club of Victoria at Vertigo on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Stand Up is a Guinness World Record Challenge to have the largest number of people ever stand up for one minute in protest of poverty.

Death by toothpaste

A common household chemical in soaps, toothpaste, processed food and clothing has been found to be a potential health risk to human hormone action. A paper written by Dr. Caren Helbing, a UVic molecular biologist, showed that when tadpoles were exposed to levels of triclosan commonly found in the environment, frog metamorphosis that relies on thyroid hormones were disrupted.

Reducing waste

Waste Reduction Day at UVic is Oct. 19. There will be an open panel discussion with representatives from local government, NGOs and Vancouver's binning community. It will start at 3 p.m. in the Clearihue building, room A127.

NDP swarms UVic

Federal New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton and Victoria MP and post-secondary critic Denise Savoie will be on campus this Thursday. The free event, hosted by the UVic New Democrats, will be at the David Lam Auditorium at 1:15 p.m. Topics include Canada's role in Afghanistan and the NDP's "Green Agenda," as well as a question and answer session.

CRD launches organic pickup

The Capital Regional District put a pilot project into effect Oct. 10. Almost 2,200 homes in Oak Bay are being supplied with green outdoor totes and kitchen containers to collect organic materials that cannot be composted in a backyard bin.

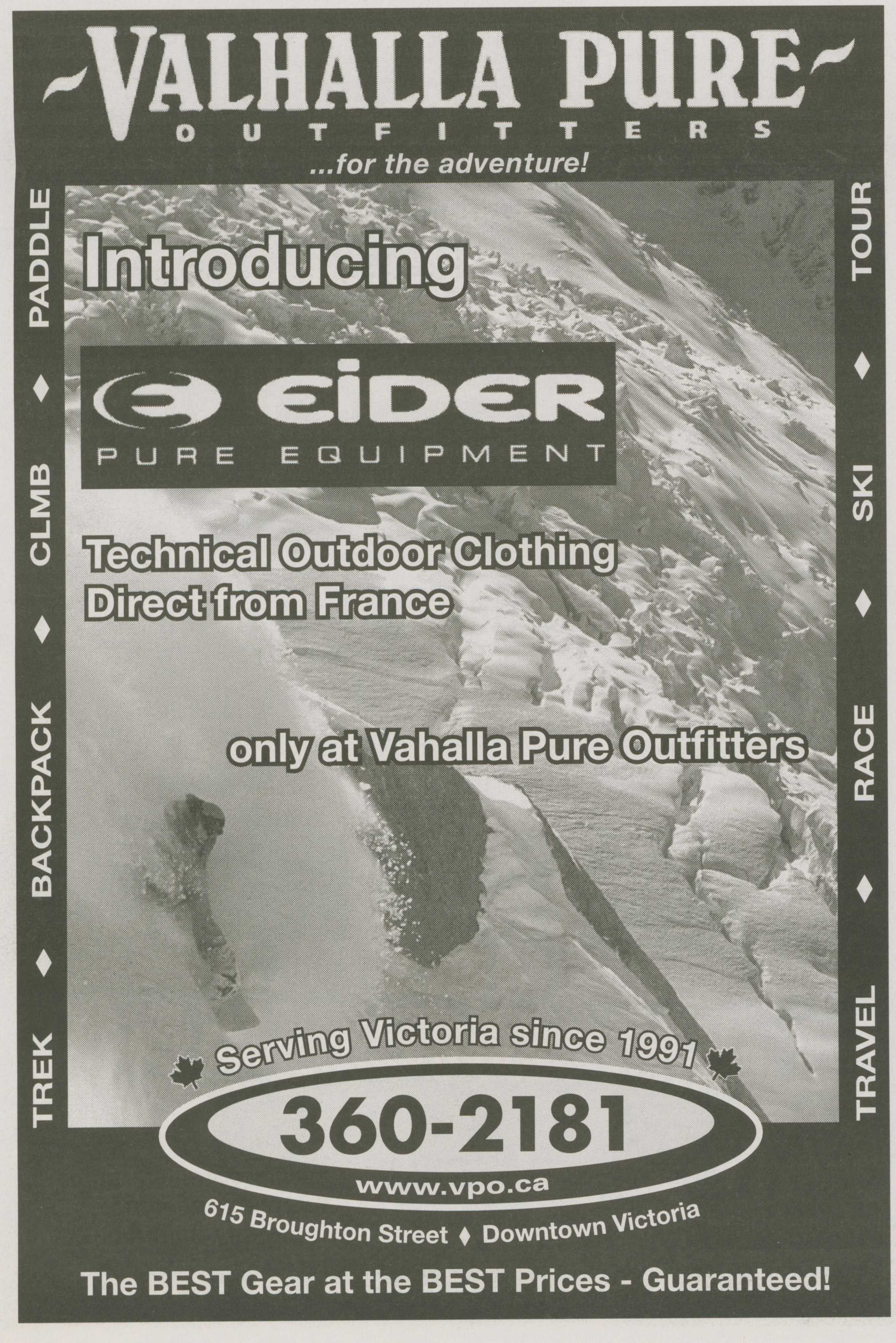
The pilot project will accept such materials as food leftovers (including meat, fish, bones), non-liquid dairy products, stale breads and baked goods, and soiled paper products. The project will not accept yard and garden waste as it should be composted in backyard compost bins. It also does not include materials that are contaminants, like plastic, foil or metal.

Organic materials currently make up 30 per cent of the garbage going to Hartland landfill.

Protect your car

Auto theft in B.C. dropped by about 15 per cent in the first six months of this year, but in Victoria it has shot up 38 per cent, according to the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team.

Police attribute the provincial numbers to the success of the bait car program.



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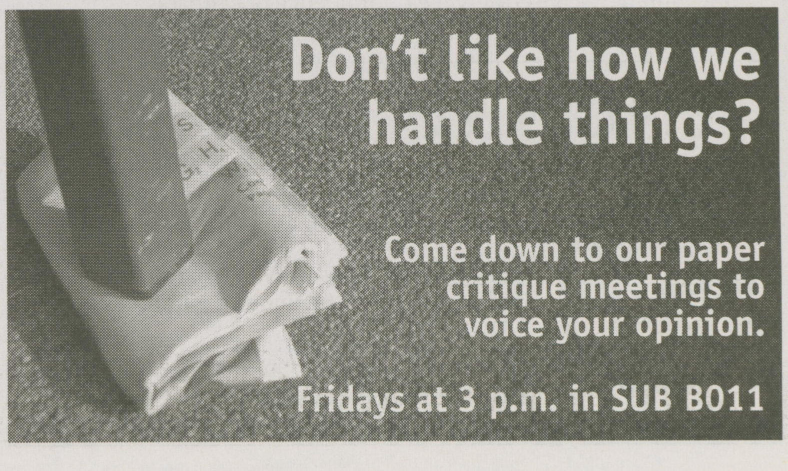

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PROVIDED PHOTO

An otherworldly sight seen through the eyes of VENUS, the sister observatory of NEPTUNE.

NEPTUNE will launch in 2007

by Gregory Virc

The UVic-led North-east Pacific Time-series Undersea Networked Experiments (NEPTUNE) seafloor observatory is scheduled for operation in 2007. The Canada-U.S. project will lay a network of nodes, remote-controlled, electronic 'observatories', on the deep sea floor off the coasts of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon.

Chris Barnes, program co-ordinator, stressed the merit and timeliness of the project work.

"I would hope that most of the public would realize that they live on a fragile planet and that the public in general has been contributing a number of perturbations on the planet—one we talk a lot about is climate change, global change," said Barnes. "We know that oceans are perhaps the key component in earth's climate system ... and not just the surface ocean, but the full circulation, the full heat reservoir of the ocean itself."

Barnes also questioned how scientists can differentiate between minor change and major change.

"This is a technological revolution driven, to a large extent, by the telecommunications industry," said Barnes. Fibre optic cables employed by NEPTUNE will "offer abundant power without batteries, which means you can put all kinds of instruments down there, and with the Internet you can control those instruments from onshore."

Barnes is enthusiastic about UVic's role.

"Whenever an institution has an opportunity to essentially revolutionize or transform a discipline, it's an extremely rare situation," he said. "Scientists will be able to seize on the opportunity to take their discipline into new waters, if you'll forgive the pun, and develop new technologies."

Thus far the Victoria Experimental Network Under the Sea (VENUS) project, also led by UVic, is giving project planners a glimpse of the type of images that NEPTUNE will be transmitting. With a budget of $10.3 million, UVic communications describes VENUS as "a separate cabled sea floor observatory deployed in Saanich Inlet [since] February 2006."

Transmissions from the project have included an innocuous scene of fish stirring up sediment and a more unsettling image of sea crabs picking at the remains of a pig carcass transplanted to the ocean floor by researchers.

However, this kind of human interference is not expected for the NEPTUNE project, at least not immediately, as scientists will be busy observing events in an ocean-floor environment that has thus far only been glimpsed.

"The deep sea biota is most intriguing for both the public and the scientists—it's the least known as it's so difficult to get down there and see in real time," said Barnes, who added that NEPTUNE will be able to study plate tectonics in detail, the relationship between earthquakes, tsunamis and the earth-ocean systems, and other phenomena such as climate change.

As the potential benefits of this project become evident, private and public spheres have been generously contributing to its growth. On Sept. 26 it was announced that $16 million had been granted by the Canadian government and $4 million by private parties, to bring total funding of the NEPTUNE project to roughly $112 million. Much of this total is from U.S. donors, but the initial $62.4 million in funding was granted by the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund.

"We're a rather voracious species in what we consume, and the effect of that consumption—the extent of environmental change generated by human beings—is now greater than natural variation," said Barnes.

"Understanding that, we can make the appropriate policy decision [and] the public can understand it.... most of this information will be publicly available, with the Internet providing a tremendous democratization of knowledge."

UVic campus ready for anything

by Lisa Clement

In the wake of the recent shooting at Dawson College in Montreal, many students, staff and faculty at UVic have been left wondering if the campus is prepared for a catastrophic event.

According to Daphne Donaldson, UVic's emergency planner, the campus is prepared for any emergency, from health incidents to a catastrophic event such as a large earthquake, tsunami, fire or even an attack similar to the one at Dawson.

"The important thing is to inform students that, in case of an emergency, we are prepared, and UVic has a plan," said Donaldson.

UVic follows the same emergency response model as the one legislated by the provincial government for every municipality in B.C. The standardized B.C. Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) ensures a co-ordinated response and recovery to all emergency incidents and disasters.

"On a busy day, campus has a larger population than the municipality of Oak Bay," said Donaldson. "We are like a small community, and having the same language as our municipal response teams makes communication easier."

Since most buildings do not have intercom systems, UVic must rely on building and floor co-ordinators. They're responsible for assessing the emergency situation and helping to direct students and staff on what to do next. The co-ordinator's goal is to quickly get people out and gathered at the appropriate assembly point, much like resident advisors, who aid students in on-campus housing with the evacuation process in the event of a fire or earthquake.

During an interview, Donaldson pulled out a bright orange vest, one of many on campus for response co-ordinators. Dangling from the vest was a laminate card with information on emergency and safety procedures and contact information.

"All safety instructions are there," Donaldson said, squinting to read the card. "I don't have my reading glasses on right now, so I can't see what it says exactly, but it will help during an event."

Most emergencies are unexpected and abrupt, leaving little time to remember, even for a response co-ordinator, a vest or a pair of reading glasses. That's why, said Donaldson, "you can never be 100 per cent prepared for an emergency."

Nevertheless, she recommends being personally prepared for disasters.

"For students from the East, earthquake drills may be completely new," she said.

"I wouldn't know what to do if disaster struck while at school," said fourth-year student Jillian Lang. "I'd hope someone would tell us what to do. All I know is, if there is an earthquake, crawl under a table, and in a tornado, flee to a basement."

Students and faculty can find important information regarding emergencies on the UVic web page under announcements, or on the campus radio station, CFUV 101.9 FM. If an event is catastrophic enough to close these down, then students can look to local television stations.

Every year in May, the Red Cross hosts National Preparedness Week to encourage Canadians to take simple steps to prepare for a major event. This includes creating a home disaster plan and assembling an emergency kit.

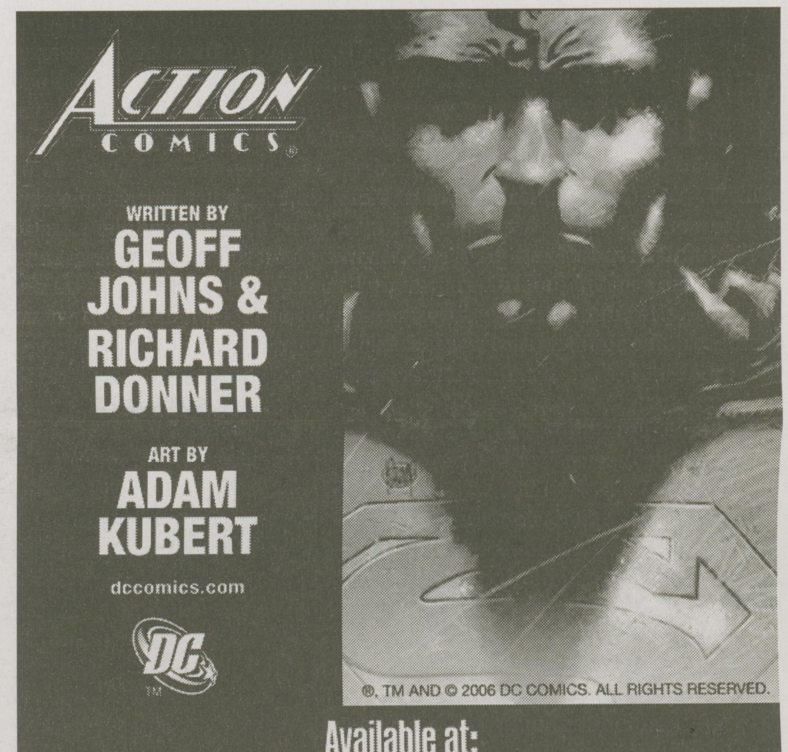
"Don't be caught off guard," said Don Shropshire, national director of Canadian Red Cross's Disaster Services. "Disaster preparedness begins at home."

The campaign usually falls on the first week of May, between semesters—a time when campus is nearly deserted. UVic is looking into developing a similar campaign at a time when campus is bustling, said Donaldson.

Before Hurricane Katrina, it was recommended that every household have enough food and water for 72 hours, but now BCERMS recommends seven days' worth of supplies.

"It is important to make sure everyone in your home knows what to do before, during and after an emergency," Shropshire said.

UVic continually updates their safety procedures and there is talk of adding an emergency section to the UVSS student handbook and day planner for quick reference.



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Navy Days reveal the forces behind the Forces

by Anna Czolpinski

Navy Days pulled into Ogden Point last week, showcasing the highlights of the Canadian Forces.

On Oct. 6 and 7, events included tours of warships, aircraft flyovers, booths and demonstrations of many of the different types of possible careers within the Department of National Defence.

A main attraction of Navy Days was the three Canadian warships, which were open to the public for tours: HMCS Algonquin, an area air defence destroyer, HMCS Winnipeg, a multi-role patrol frigate, and HMCS Whitehorse, a coastal defence vessel.

Lieutenant (Navy) Justin Wong, the Officer of the Day aboard HMCS Algonquin, said that the ship's crew was busy giving tours all day. The public was able to view the on-board flight deck and helicopter hanger, the ship's bridge, operations room and engineering spaces, and dining areas and sleeping quarters. HMCS Algonquin received over 2,000 visitors during the two-day event.

Also featured during Navy Days was the Damage Control Olympics, in which students from the Esquimalt Canadian Forces Fleet School competed against their instructors through a damage control obstacle course.

When a simulated fire was discovered on a helicopter cockpit as a part of the course, one student called the rest of the ship's company to the attention of the fire by repeatedly shouting, "Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire on the flight deck! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire on the flight deck!" Hull technician student trainees dressed quickly in their fire fighting gear, made sure to clear casualties, put out the fire and administered first aid. The remainder of the obstacle course involved containing various types of flooding situations that could be encountered at sea.

The next event was boarding party demonstrations. A naval boarding party is a team of approximately 20 sailors from one ship, from a variety of different trades, specially trained to board suspect-looking vessels encountered at sea. The purpose of such boardings is to search and inspect the ship's cargo, looking mostly for weapons, drugs or the illegal smuggling of goods.

"Sometimes there are ships with 6,000 containers ... it can take a week to search the whole thing," said Sub-Lieut. Jonathan Lafontaine. "But most of the time a smaller number of containers are searched at random." Internationally, Canadian warships intercept potentially threatening vessels. Members of naval boarding parties also work locally alongside Canadian customs officials.

Next was the display booth of the imagery technicians. "Image techs" document the world of all elements of the Canadian Forces—land, air and sea. They do everything from taking photos at change of command ceremonies and parades, to making training videos, to doing investigative and forensic photography that involves documenting accidents and injuries, said Pte. Leona Chaisson.

ANNA CZOLPINSKI PHOTO

Members of 11 Field Ambulance simulate field patient care.

The Fleet Diving Unit displayed a navy diver being lowered into the water on a platform. The public could speak with clearance divers, an elite group of scuba divers specially trained in mine and bomb disposal. Their notoriously intense two-week selection process involves 500 to 1,500 pushups per day, daily runs of up to 30 kilometres, and timed open-ocean swims while dragging heavy objects through the water, all on two hours of sleep. The 40 to 50 per cent who manage to pass move on to a year-long course in bomb disposal and learn about mine countermeasures. Because of their extensive training in explosives handling, the unit has been recently augmenting the army's operations in Afghanistan, said Leading Seaman Doug Jimmo.

Also interesting was the display of HMCS Victoria, the Canadian submarine that is currently in refit in the Esquimalt dockyard.

In his 19 years with the Canadian Submarine Service, Petty Officer 2nd Class Dan Cullihall has travelled to Britain, France, Ireland and Portugal. Cullihall said that once you have passed the medical screening, which involves a pressure tolerance test as well as a psychiatric assessment to ensure that you are not claustrophobic, the most important requirement to being a successful submariner is the capacity to get along with a wide variety of people. Because of the very tight quarters, "you need to be able to resolve differences and cannot hold grudges," he said.

ANNA CZOLPINSKI PHOTO

A member of naval boarding party demonstration team searches cargo containers at sea.

There was a long lineup to visit the Cormorant, Canada's Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter. The public could get a tour from one of the two specially trained pilots, two SAR technicians and a flight engineer that make up the crew of the aircraft. The SAR team is trained to provide medical attention and rescue in remote areas.

"The job of a SAR tech is exciting," said Capt. Hans Kleemann, a Cormorant helicopter pilot. "It's real and rewarding. It's not just a training mission or an exercise," he said.

Also on display were civilian occupations whose expertise is required by the forces, such as those who respond to marine spills. While in harbour, all the ships are surrounded by fuel booms. "This way, if an accident occurs, it is already contained," said marine environmental emergency response officer Robert Pope.

Also available for viewing was a computer program that, based on tides, currents and wind, could help emergency responders track an oil spill and send cleanup ships and barges to the correct area.

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Martlet AGM on October 12th, 4 p.m.

On October 12th, the Martlet will be holding its Annual General Meeting. All staff members must attend this meeting, as we will be discussing important issues vital to the future of the paper. The AGM will be held in the Martlet office.

Items on the agenda include:

- Electing a new board of directors
- Business arising from the previous meeting
- Other business

If you wish to propose a motion for the meeting, e-mail the Chair of the Board at annikag@uvic.ca for further details.

Nominations for board positions will be held at this meeting. If you would like to be on the board, you must attend this meeting.

People with disabilities need fire exits just like everyone else

Accessibility guru at campus to lecture on challenges

by Gemma Karstens-Smith

GEMMA KARSTENS-SMITH PHOTO

Brad McCannell, with his service dog Montana, is worried about the safety of buildings for people with disabilities.

While disabilities affect a large portion of the population, accessibility is not a universal priority.

On Oct. 3, Brad McCannell, president of Canadian Barrier Free Designs, spoke out on the topic of accessibility in a lecture entitled "Ramping Minds" at the University of Victoria. McCannell has spent 15 years as an access consultant for airport development, transit systems and public buildings to create accessible environments for people with disabilities.

Today, 750 million people around the world (and one in seven Canadians) report having a disability. However, according to McCannell, only half of all people with a disability actually report them. McCannell, a quadriplegic himself, cited this as one of the major problems in planning for accessibility. Not only are the numbers inaccurate, but the kinds of disabilities represented are also incorrect. During his lecture, McCannell said that despite the fact that Canada has a rapidly aging population, many deny having a disability.

McCannell also argued that buildings that are up to code are not necessarily safe for people with disabilities. For instance, fire exits often have steps down from the door, making it impossible for people in wheelchairs to leave the building in the case of an emergency. As well, people with hearing loss require special visual fire alarms. Currently, these are only required in hotels. Although McCannell applauded B.C. building codes for being "light years ahead of other codes," he said that the code is still lagging in efficiency. For him, building to code is "the least you can do."

McCannell said most buildings are built today with the 18- to 45-year-old male in mind—the smallest portion of the population. For housing, this target shrinks to the 18- to 35-year-old male demographic. When a building is no longer accessible, McCannell said, it must be updated and redesigned.

During the initial building process, making a building accessible costs approximately four per cent of the entire building budget; retrofitting a building costs approximately 48 per cent of the initial budget. When problems are not addressed by initial infrastructure, they need to be solved by human resources. McCannell's lecture stressed that developers must anticipate the needs of buildings users.

People with disabilities currently account for approximately $26 billion of disposable income in Canada. McCannell said every time someone with a disability cannot enter a business, that business loses money. As well, people with disabilities, like people without disabilities, don't usually go out to eat or go shopping alone. Every time someone with a walking companion cannot go into a restaurant, that restaurant generally loses out on profit for more than just one meal.

Some solutions McCannell suggested to address the issues of accessibility included realizing that "it's normal to have a disability." Today, 16 per cent of the population has a disability of some sort. That number is expected to skyrocket in the coming years with the aging baby boomers. Producers need to ask themselves how everything they make affects people with disabilities. Also, when developing a new building, McCannell said that getting input from people with disabilities is a must.

Royal Bank asks students for help

by Kim Armstrong

In a strange turn of events, students are getting the opportunity to tell big business what to do.

The Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) is offering students a chance to make their mark on the financial world with the Next Great Innovator Challenge.

"University-based students, some of the most leading-edge and creative thinkers out there ... are in our view the clients of tomorrow," said Anita Sands, head of innovation and process design at RBC. "We wanted to get their input on how we could better serve them in the future."

The challenge, which opened registration for entries Sept. 18, is looking for students with a vision of how their generation will shape the financial services industry in the years to come.

In teams of three or four, students must answer RBC's question: "Tell us how today's teens will influence the financial services industry of tomorrow and describe an innovation, idea or concept that financial services should consider in light of this influence."

"The level of interest and response has been wonderful so far and we've gotten a lot of pickup from the competition," said Sands.

In developing their ideas, students are encouraged to consider a variety of elements that affect the marketplace. These include the trends and demographics of banks' clientele, products and services provided, advertising, and even whether or not institutions can meet customer needs on their own or should consider forming partnerships with former rivals in order to improve their services.

Five finalists will travel to Toronto to present their idea to the RBC Executive Judging Panel. Each team of finalists will receive a cash prize to be divided equally among members of the team.

First place prize is $20,000, followed by $10,000 for second place, $5,000 for third, and $3,000 and $1,500 for fourth and fifth place respectively.

RBC will not necessarily use any of the ideas it receives from contestants in their entirety.

"That largely depends on what kind of ideas we get," said Sands. "What we are interested in ... is taking that feedback and thinking about the client of the future and the bank of the future and incorporating that, then, into our strategies."

The contest is open to students who are enrolled in a full-time program at a Canadian university or college. It doesn't matter whether you're a technology student, or a business student, or an art student, and that's what's great about it, according to Sands.

Teams must register online by 11:59 p.m. Oct. 31 and have their entry submitted by Jan. 27, 2007. Final evaluations will be held on March 29.

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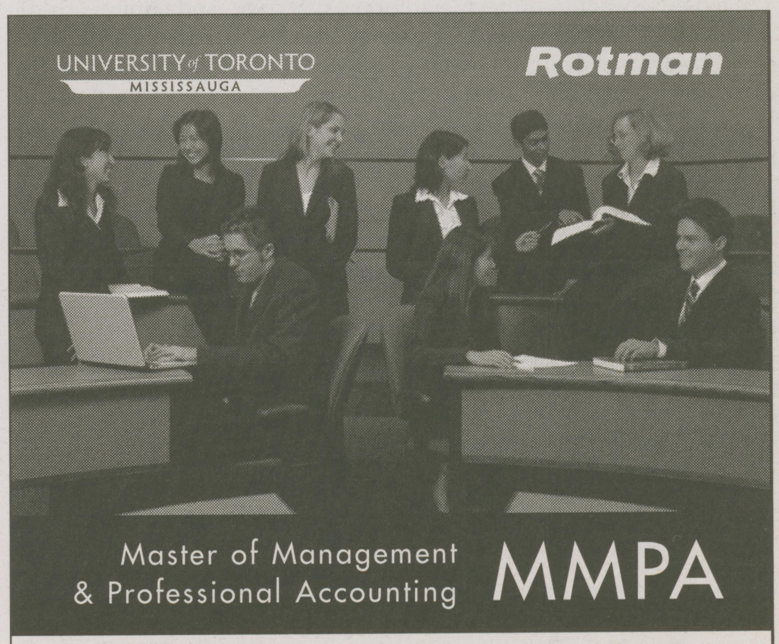

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Editorial

Defence of Religion Act would legalize discrimination

Stephen Harper wants you to speak your mind. See, he's really more liberal-minded than you thought. He'll even undermine federal law to make sure you can do it.

Soon MPs will decide whether or not they want to reopen the debate on same-sex marriage. If they do, we'll have to listen for a second time to the arguments for and against allowing homosexual couples to wed. Once again, small-minded rednecks will scream about sacrilege, while urban liberalites roll their eyes at them.

If, however, MPs say that they too are ready to move on, then in all likelihood the federal government will push for the adoption of a piece of legislative bullshit called the Defence of Religions Act. If the Conservatives can't legally stop gays from tying the knot, then they'll do everything in their control to make it difficult for them to do so.

The Defence of Religions Act would allow public employees to refuse to perform homosexual marriages if they feel it is against the teachings of their faith. (Religious leaders are already allowed to opt out of performing the ceremonies.) The act would also protect people, including those in the public eye, from human-rights complaints if they criticize homosexuality (not just gay marriage).

If a public employee has a problem with homosexuality, it must not interfere with their work, much like how members of the bureaucracy are to remain unbiased with regard to the ruling federal party. It is the job of public employees to follow federal law, and if they cannot do so, then they should not be in that position.

Another problem with this kind of law would set a precedent for people to defend their actions and their insulting behaviour by invoking their religion. What's to stop a Mormon from arguing (in court) that polygamy is acceptable when, according to their religion, it is? What about the hordes of quasi-cult "religions" and their teachings? There is no real standard to determine why the teachings of one religion in one area (in this case homosexuality) should be protected over others.

The Liberal Party has framed the debate of the possible act as a human rights issue. They say that allowing criticism of gays is equal to institutionalizing discrimination. And that's essentially what this law would do.

Not so, say some Conservatives (some have spoken out against Defence of Religions): this act would protect free speech. The right to free speech is important, but there are necessary infringements on this right. The right to publicly criticize minorities should not be protected.

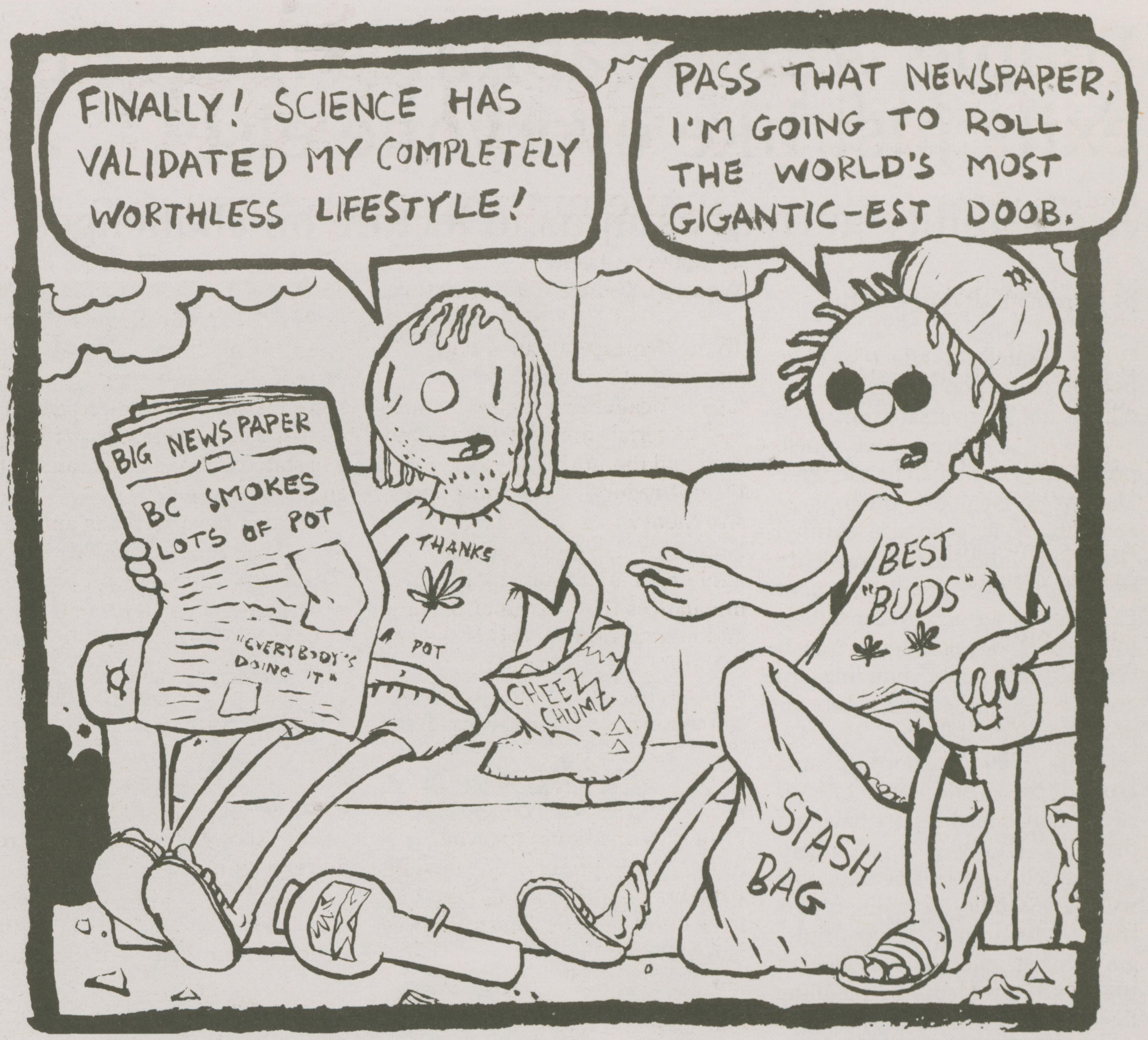
The feds also want to protect "traditional marriage" and family values. But there has never really been a standard of marriage. "Talk of the traditional definition wrongly implies a historical stability in marriage," wrote Robert Leckey, a family law professor at McGill University, in *The Globe and Mail*. "Indeed, the only tradition that can be comfortably claimed for marriage is one of constant change."

In other words, there has never been a definition of what traditional marriage is, especially in Canada, where social change is constant. Canadians should be proud of belonging to one of the most open and progressive nations in the world. Any forays into dismantling this should be immediately rejected and deemed un-Canadian. Any public leader speaking out against homosexuality should be dealt with in the same way as a person who makes racist or sexist remarks and the law should defend not the right to discriminate, but the right to take action against those who do.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Angry? Pleased? Confused? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

Martlet has an open letters policy and will endeavour to print every letter received from the university community, with priority given to undergraduate students. Letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by e-mail and include your name and student number for verification. Letters must be under 200 words. Deadline for letters is noon on the Friday before publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order received. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed.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LETTERS

UVic the Supreme Matriarchy

She-who-must-be-obeyed graciously recognizes the complaint made by Dan Palmer in "Affirmative Craption." She notes that his status as a lowly male has not affected his ability to gain an education and She assumes he is also able to procure money for tuition, as well as food, shelter and health care. If not, he surely would have been writing about these (much more important) issues.

She-who-must-be-obeyed also notes that "discrimination" is a term used to connote systematic oppression of those considered "non-humans." She begs to remind Palmer that human males retain the coveted position of both human and the universal pronoun.

Stephanie Kenzie, UVic student

More on "Affirmative Craption"

I wish to respond to the op-ed piece by Dan Palmer about the unfair treatment he has received due to his gender here at the UVic.

My first concern is in regard to the political science professor who shared her theoretical perspectives on feminism that apparently threatens to push the "philosophical pendulum of gender politics" a little bit too far. I think Palmer is confusing a doctrine that she is sharing with a doctrine she follows.

In many classes, we learn about all kinds of theoretical perspectives, ideologies and dogmas, but we are not asked to adopt them. I personally find it refreshing that a professor actually takes feminist theory seriously instead of granting it a token class.

Secondly, I want to point out that the UVic poli-sci department actually has very few female professors. In fact, only four of the 18 regular profs are female.

Finally, I feel like Palmer was being disingenuous when he carefully chose to only include the tamer parts of Neil French's sexist statements. Let's be clear about what French said, shall we? He stated that "women don't make it to the top because they don't deserve to. They're crap." He goes on to say that women most often "wimp out and go suckle something."

The philosophical pendulum is so out of control that rich white men in the upper ranks of the business world are now openly criticized for sharing blatantly sexist remarks! Watch out men ... the feminists are coming.

Erin Tomkins, UVic student

Another note for Palmer

Perhaps Dan Palmer should have attended the Sept. 27 Gender and Politics teach-in put on by the Undergraduate Politics Society (UPS) to learn about gender issues.

When I read his opinion piece, "Affirmative Craption," I didn't know whether I should laugh, as some of his statements were so clearly unsupportable, or cry because a university student still held such a tunnel-visioned view of the world.

When Romeo Dallaire spoke at UVic on Jan. 9, 2006 on Darfur and Rwanda, he stated that the violent repression of women by men has traditionally been one of the most effective forms of warfare (he was saying this in support of increased humanitarian intervention by Canada), so no, I don't think the "subconscious sexualization of military terminology" is so far-fetched a theory. Women still make up less than 20 per cent of all Canadian Forces personnel (not just those in combat roles). That's also around the same percentage of female parliamentarians.

Palmer needs to do a lot more research. Then, his piece might make it from the Opinion to the News section.

Louise Walton, UVic student

Public peeing: a $75,000 answer pops up

by Sam VanSchie

Slipping away to squat discretely may not be lady-like, but it's a skill my lentil-sized bladder demanded I master.

My talent has served me well as a survival mechanism for outdoor rock shows with frightening facilities, backland camping expeditions, and late nights in downtown Victoria where one public washroom doesn't cut it.

The clean seats of the supervised public stalls in Centennial Square or the ladies' room of the pub before I leave are my preferred pit stop. But it's the bush, the alleyway or perhaps your front lawn where I more often find myself peeing—not unlike the family pets that pass by in the daytime.

Illicit public urination is a problem that Victoria city council is looking to curb in the downtown core. One possible solution: pop-up urinals.

Believe it.

At $75,000 a piece, the high-tech self-cleaning toilets compress conveniently into the sidewalk during the day and offer three standing spots around their cylindrical stainless steel exteriors when above ground at night.

Mobile urinals will be set up in Bastion Square next month to test the willingness of night crawlers to drop their fly in an open public unit. The success of this project will determine whether the sizable investment into the shiny retractable model is beneficial.

Men that seek the privacy of a door will be a hard sell. Women also are also unlikely to benefit from these units. Though funnel-assisted standing is made possible by such products as Sani-fem Freshette Urinating Aid (available at Mountain Equipment Co-op for $24.50), they have yet to become a handbag staple.

The lack of public washrooms in the oceanside city is a complaint of many residents, from elderly people with weak bladders to mothers with cross-legged screaming kids. And, while I can squat without wetting my shoes, many would rather get a bladder infection than risk it.

So, while the *Jetsons*-esque urinals may be conducive for late night drunkards, they don't work for the majority.

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Feminism is an action

People must recognize and diminish power imbalances that marginalize

by Rebecca Taylor
Women's Centre Co-ordinator

To me, feminism is an action.

It's a way of being.

It's not academic articles, lectures and materials for us to take home, read and memorize.

It's not regurgitating anti-oppressive theory.

Feminism is about people recognizing and diminishing power imbalances that marginalize some and benefit others. This is the key not only to gender equality, but also ending racism and other social struggles we encounter every day.

Recently the Women's Centre held a series of consciousness-raising workshops for the collective. In September we invited speakers on anti-racism, disability issues and gender topics such as anti-transphobia.

During one workshop, Proma Tigore, a woman of colour and professor from the English department, shared with us her personal experience and some of her analysis of racism. She pointed out that racism is not necessarily attributed to a statement or action; rather, it's an institution.

Working towards being anti-racist involves more than questioning the things you say or defending what you do. It also is recognition of power dynamics in your everyday life. By knowing and accepting your places of privilege, you can be sensitive and aware when you are communicating or asking things of others who do not have the same privileges as you.

Understanding feminism requires a similar analysis. We need to actively question the systems that award credibility to some people over others, with an interest in addressing sexism as an institution.

If you happen to be someone who benefits from racism or sexism, it is important not to respond to discussions about these issues with defensiveness. Instead, look at it as something bigger that you need to be aware of, something that permeates the way you interact with others. Perhaps others look to you for recognition without even realizing it, or do more of the smiling than you might.

These power struggles are everywhere, and in different aspects of life, most folks hold places of privilege that they might be quick to defend.

I'll make an example of myself. As an able-bodied woman, when somebody points out my ignorance to accessibility issues, my learned reaction might be to feel defensive. My stomach tightens and the status quo responds with, "I'm not; my best friend has a disability, so I can't be treating someone with ignorance." Although I might be a thoughtful person, this isn't the point, and thus defensive notions are unproductive.

What is a better response?

In her book *Becoming an Ally*, Anne Bishop offers some useful advice.

"It is important to be a worker in your own liberation struggle, whatever it is," she writes. "Learn, reflect on, and understand the patterns and effects of oppression, take action with others, take risks, walk towards your fear to find your power."

To put this in the context of racism, Proma Tigore put it simply.

"Instead of asking, 'Am I being racist?'" she encouraged, "ask, 'What are the power dynamics at play here?'"

U.S. won the war, now what?

by Mike Vasilev

Operation Iraqi Freedom couldn't be going better. It couldn't be running smoother and the Iraqi people have never been freer. That's the message coming from American propaganda masters.

Officially, the War in Iraq was won on May 1, 2003. Since then Saddam's armies have been officially defeated, the Iraqi people officially freed, and 2,552 U.S. soldiers and over 40,000 Iraqi civilians officially declared dead.

Currently, notions of peace, order, stability and personal security are also considered dead. Iraq, many observers say, is out of control. Or more precisely, it's in a state of semi-controlled chaos and it's up to the American Coalition to do something about it—either they crack down or pull out.

Pulling out now would result in some degree of civil war for Iraq. And for Bush and his Coalition, pulling out now would be admitting defeat, failure and that they were wrong in the worst possible way. They would leave Iraq humiliated—with nothing to show to the press, Democrats, or global public for their war effort except dead bodies, bad memories, a broken economy, shattered reputation and, oh yeah, Saddam—the $300 Billion Man.

Pulling out now would just look bad. So instead the Coalition is cranking it up a notch and cracking down. The plan is to focus all military effort—and all media attention—on Baghdad, to regain control of the city, suppress resistance and quell the "insurgency." More troops are being sent in, and the city of seven million is being completely sealed off with trenches and rubble walls. Twenty-eight checkpoints will regulate and cavity-check all traffic going in and out of the city.

Insurgency is a catch-all buzzword. It encompasses anyone using violence to resist the Coalition or the current (dominantly Shi'ia) Iraqi government—often seen as a Coalition collaborator. This includes many—mainly Sunni Islam militias, but also Shi'ia militias, Iraqi and pan-Arab nationalists, supporters of Saddam's old regime and the odd band of frantic jihadists (as seen on TV). While fighting the occupation and all associated with it, these groups are mainly fighting each other. With or without the Coalition, the Iraqi civil war is on the way.

Saddam held the country and all its factions together; he crushed dissonance and forced national unity. He was the binding glue—torturous, totalitarian and utterly shitty as it might have been.

Besieging a city with troops and trenches to isolate and suppress its insurgency has been done several times already in the war, most notably in Fallujah, in western Iraq. The city was deemed an "insurgency stronghold," and in November 2004 a siege, called Operation Phantom Fury, began to take back control of the city. The siege was bloody, messy and ultimately unsuccessful. The perimeter is now secure, but the insurgency remains strong within the city. The operation in Fallujah was a much smaller and simpler model of what the Baghdad siege aspires to be.

What we learned from these previous attempts to contain and stifle the insurgency with force is that it cannot be done. The harder the Coalition pushes, the harder the "insurgency" will lash back. And an increased and more aggressive presence of foreign troops will only fuel the nationalist cause, leading to a stronger supported and resolved resistance. This was the case for the Americans in Vietnam and the Russians in Afghanistan. It's been the case in countless examples, and history will only repeat itself.

There may in fact be many people in Iraq who are genuinely interested in the freedom and democracy that the Coalition raves about. But as long as an occupational force presents these things, there will be a resistance. The Iraqi people have been nothing but fucked over in the past by foreign powers (be they Ottoman, British, American, whatever), and so now, in 2006, they have no reason to do anything but all they can to resist them.

No matter what happens, whether the Coalition increases or decreases its presence, cracks down or pulls out, there is sure to be more bloodshed and more mayhem. The Coalition has got itself into a bad situation that is only going to get worse. No amount of trenches or speeches about freedom can change that.

But when all the freshly excavated dust settles, one message will remain clear: "Operation Iraqi Freedom couldn't be going better."

First-year English text complaints

by Kevin Ehman

As a class mandatory for nearly every university degree, first-year English is far more tedious than it ought to be. The choice of required reading material is a cause of disdain for many students—especially for overly analytical freshmen, like me, who plan to pursue English as a major.

Why, in the year 2006, do English professors still subject us to what they consider "timeless" literature? There has to be something more relevant for our generation to read. Every week I see engaging pieces of modern literature in papers and magazines—heck, even the recycling bin probably contains something more enticing than what we are force-fed. I can't believe anything of value hasn't been written since the God-forsaken '30s and their "classic" short stories about farming, which are so unreadable in their boringness that it's difficult to pull all the literary devices and linguistic brilliance out of the text. That's the whole point in the first place, right?

But all I have learned from these farmers' chronicles is that they have nothing to do all winter but write shitty short stories about how farming is hard and it sucks to which I can only say, don't do it. Further, the stories are utterly predictable and so cliché-ridden that I can pull out literary devices without even reading them.

We find the setting, which is always in the middle of nowhere in the '30s, and usually involves a tiny, tight-knit community devastated by a drought, hailstorm or blizzard (and oh, the Great Depression). Then the plot, in which the conflict is a combo of man versus self (lone farmer is lonely), man versus man (you do nothing but farm and be bitter at your wife and kids and life), or man versus nature (all the crops get destroyed and it looks like another cold winter of having no food and no money, burning our clothes for warmth, and eating dry bread). Good times. Lastly, there will be a peripheral yet necessary character, usually named Joe or John, who will guide us through their hard-done-by lives of working extremely hard for little or no profit. Sounds like communism to me, except without the benefits of a strong centralized government (these characters would be much happier with Lenin than say, R.B. Bennett. Hell, they would even settle for that socialist FDR). So after depressing us for about 200 pages, we are supposed to somehow empathize with the pain of a depression-era farmer. Not happening.

What I am trying to say is fuck these first-year readings. I just finished digesting the 2005 World Human Rights Report, followed by *Voltaire's Bastards*. For fun. Short stories about farming are an insult to my intelligence. I want meaningful literature. And while it's not the most original thought, "What in the hell is the point of this?" seems to be a first-year English universal, and an unfortunately inescapable one at that.

Into Insite

Dispelling the myths of drug addiction in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside

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A man, one of the average 700 visitors of the day, enters Insite.

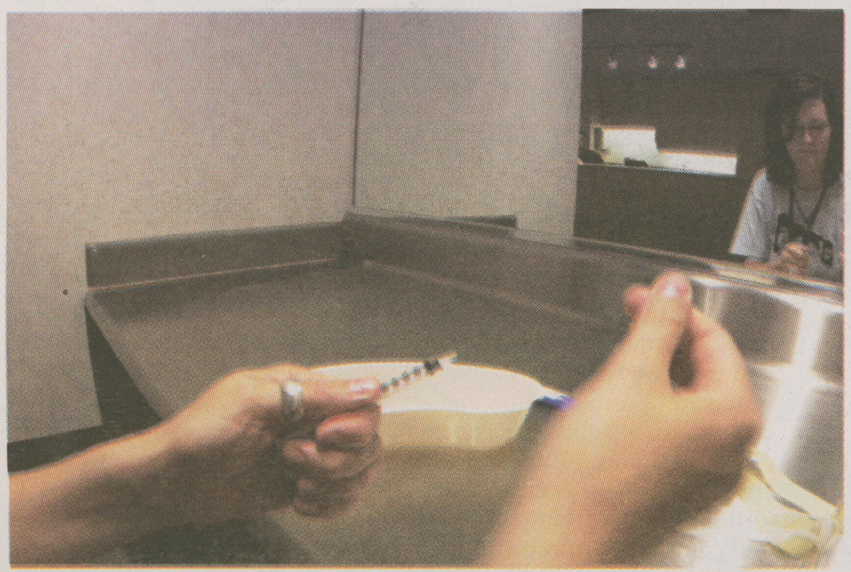

PHOTO COURTESY OF VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH

Insite provides injection kits for its clients, such as the one demonstrated here, and teaches safe injection practices.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CUP

Misconceptions about the nature of addiction are one of the reasons Insite may have trouble finding support.

By Eric Szeto

VANCOUVER (CUP) — On any given morning on the corner of East Hastings and Columbia in front of the Radio Station Cafe, a drug dealer can make up to $35,000. Their customers approach in a nonchalant fashion, do their business and quickly scuttle off in various directions.

Some may venture back to hotel rooms, rented out at cheap monthly rates. Others will drift into the nearest alley and quickly dose. But these days, most will probably walk into Insite, Vancouver's highly publicized and contentious safe injection facility, just eight doors away.

Even on the slowest day, the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) estimates that nearly 15,000 heroin injections take place in the Downtown Eastside. Tyrone Caldwell used to take his fair share.

Caldwell, 39, spent the last 14 years dabbling with different substances, and after nearly a decade of drug use, he started dealing drugs (including heroin) to support his $300-a-day cocaine habit.

Last May, he entered the facility as he did on any normal day. He proceeded into the injection area, a booth the width of a desk with a mirror in front and two walls, to shoot up.

"The minute the buzz or rush started coming on, I knew it wasn't a cocaine rush," he says. "I knew I was in trouble, and that's the last thing I remember."

Caldwell was put into an ambulance after the paramedics revived him with a shot of Narcan, a drug that reverses the effects of opiates. Caldwell later discovered he hadn't injected pure cocaine, but a nasty mix of cocaine and heroin that led to his overdose. The staff at Insite are the reason Caldwell didn't die that day, and he knows it.

"If Insite wasn't there and I was in the alley, I'd be dead," he says.

Caldwell isn't the only one. Since its inception in 2003, Insite has grown in popularity on the Downtown Eastside—averaging around 700 visits per day—and of the 500 overdoses, none have resulted in death. Section 56 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act allows Insite to have legal possession of controlled substances. Because of this exemption, Insite is currently the only place in Canada where a person can legally carry narcotics.

Before Insite, the number of overdoses and rates of infection for HIV and hepatitis A, B and C were soaring in the Downtown Eastside. According to Anne Livingston, a project co-ordinator for VANDU, deaths by overdose climbed from 35 in 1989 to 350 in 1994. The 1995 Vancouver Injection Drug User Study sampled 5,000 users in the area and estimated that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the area was around 40 per cent, while hepatitis C hovered around 90 per cent. The community was dying.

With the alarming rates of infection and death escalating rapidly, the city soon realized traditional drug enforcement and treatment strategies were failing. Vancouver subsequently adopted its "Four Pillars Drug Strategy," which consists of harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement. Insite was created as a progressive step toward harm reduction.

Open 18 hours a day, it has become one of the busiest safe injection facilities in the world, with 7,000 registered members. (Other sites exist in Portugal, Australia, Germany and Switzerland.) Though how the facility has had an impact on the rate of HIV/AIDS is not known, Insite has found that its users are twice as likely to get into detox. In spite of this, the future of the facility was in limbo at the end of August, with the federal exemption that allowed Insite to operate due to expire on Sept. 12. When Health Minister Tony Clement announced the government's decision to extend the exemption, he shortened the time span from three years to a deadline of December 2007. "Do safe injection sites contribute to lowering drug use and fighting addiction?" Clement said in a media release. "Given the need for more facts, I am unable to approve the current request to extend the Vancouver site for another three and a half years."

Jeff West, a co-ordinator at Insite, has witnessed firsthand the changes the facility has brought to the Downtown Eastside. He's working to dispel the myths he says are circulating in Ottawa and educate people about the many other services they provide.

"We teach people; we never hold or touch the needle, that's the bottom line," says West. "[The staff] can tie people off, help them find a vein, [pick] what kind of angle to insert the needle. We also have a prosthetic arm that has veins and use that as a teaching tool."

West stresses the strictness of these guidelines—if someone dies and Insite workers have gone beyond their immediate duties, it's an automatic charge of manslaughter.

But the big appeal, West says, is giving a shelter to the people living in squalor. Insite gives the lost and hopeless a place to go.

When Darcy (who is using only her first name to protect her identity) was 22, her sister became a crystal methamphetamine addict and Darcy took custody of her sister's children. Twenty-five years later, she found herself living in the Balmoral Hotel in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside after a back injury forced her onto welfare. Darcy started using drugs—everything except crystal meth.

"I wanted to experience it all.... My sister was a junkie; it was like I wanted to experience what she experienced." At the height of her drug addiction, she was visiting Insite nearly four times a day.

"What I went for was the congeniality, and I'd go there because it's a nice, clean place. I don't actually inject anymore."

Before Insite, she says, women were contracting HIV at enormous rates, and adds that women are the most vulnerable on the Downtown Eastside. Darcy says that prostitutes are often too messed up to do their own drugs. They receive help from their pimps, who inject the women with used needles, increasing the risk for HIV and other diseases.

"Closing the site would force many women back into the alleys," she says. She admits there are many misconceptions about Insite and says that, given the lack of understanding about addiction in general, that's not surprising.

"[Drug addicts] are seen as a subhuman species here," she says, "but they aren't."

Case in point: *The Globe and Mail* held an online debate before the extension to the exemption was granted. Randy White, founder of the Drug Prevention Network of Canada, former Reform-Alliance-Conservative MP and vice-chairman of the parliamentary committee studying the non-medical use of drugs, gave a list of reasons why Insite's exemption should not be renewed.

Among the reasons:

1) Injection sites do not prevent and treat drug use.

2) Since its opening, crime and addiction have increased in Vancouver and the injection site has contributed to the problem.

3) Responsible governments do not sanction a person walking through a door and getting assistance to shoot up crystal meth.

4) Injection sites are the exception, not the rule, in most countries worldwide.

Former mayor of Vancouver and current senator Larry Campbell retorted, "To be blunt, [White] is a dinosaur and refuses to even consider scientific, peer-reviewed evidence. I suspect that deep in his mind, he believes the earth is flat."

The inability to get past archaic misconceptions about the realities of drug use is at the root of the problem, says Nathan Allen, an organizer for the advocate group Insite for Community Safety.

Libby Davies, a proponent of Insite and an NDP MP, echoed Allen's concerns. "The evidence [about] Insite is irrefutable; there's no research that suggests it's not working as it should be.... You can't ignore the scientific evidence from incredibly reputable sources. It's been under a microscope for three years. It's not a panacea for the drug solution; its part of the solution."

The "federal government doesn't fund any component," adds Allen. "Insite doesn't provide drugs. They aren't asking for a single red cent, just for the blessing, just for the exemption to be renewed."

Though perceptions of addiction range from a crime to an illness, in almost all drug addiction cases, there's a story behind it being overlooked.

"People have experienced trauma, and some of these injection drug users are basically self-medicating, and they basically become criminals because of what they start using. It's a downward spiral from there," says Davies. "It's an insane situation."

Darcy agrees. "[Drug addicts have] lost their self-esteem," she says. "A lot of people are forced here. A lot of people are unable to take care of themselves and they get into drugs."

Even for those opposed to the work of Insite, there are many right-wing libertarian arguments that point to a decrease in tax dollars being spent. According to VANDU and Insite, every ambulance coming into the Downtown Eastside costs $1,000. Each case of HIV/AIDS costs the health-care system $320,000. The financial burden the area once carried has decreased significantly.

One of the strongest messages of support comes from the Chinatown Merchants Association. Before the site opened, the association was among those most vehemently opposed to the injection site. Now they are one of its biggest supporters.

"There aren't any people shooting up in front of the businesses anymore and Insite has [shown] by example that it works," says Allen.

Six to eight hours after their last dose of heroin, a person can begin to experience withdrawal symptoms that include severe anxiety, depression, diarrhea, convulsions, vomiting and uncontrollable body movements. Mary Miller used to dose at Insite frequently to avoid these symptoms.

Months before the creation of Insite, VANDU—which was created in 1998 by a group of intravenous drug users that advocated living healthy, productive lives—opened their own de facto safe injection site for people like Miller.

The rogue site could barely operate and their hours were limited (10 p.m. to 2 a.m.), but according to Ann Livingston, that site gave the city the gumption to eventually open a legally sanctioned facility in 2003.

The municipal government, she says, had repeatedly dropped the idea for the site in previous years.

When the Sept. 12 shutdown seemed imminent, VANDU sought an injunction to the BC Supreme Court stating that it was unconstitutional for the site to be closed. The following day, Tony Clement announced the government would extend the exemption.

The news was less than encouraging to Livingston, who feels that the federal government is stalling in making a real decision. She sees Ottawa's non-committal attitude as an indication that a shutdown, regardless of the extension, is looming. "It's unprecedented to have a minister of health ignoring info that's published in the [New England Medical Journal]," Livingston says, referring to studies published about the impact of Insite. She is lobbying to open four more government-sanctioned sites.

"It's the equivalent of your whole body covered in running sores and one patch is cleared up," she says. "We know it works, but we can't put it on the rest of our bodies. I said, 'Fuck you, we can't.'"

But the likelihood of more sites popping up once the exemption expires in December seems small. Livingston knows it, and that's why VANDU is doing whatever it can to help. Spotted easily from a block away, VANDU's team of 10 people in fluorescent vests patrol the streets, educating and, in many cases, illegally assisting with the injections of addicts who are unable to inject alone. These rogue patrols complement the limited services Insite can legally provide. Often, people have to be rejected from the facility because they are not capable of injecting their own drugs.

This squadron of injectors, all trained health-care workers certified in CPR, will do what Insite workers can't.

"It's considered illegal," Livingston says. "But if I inject you with drugs ... [you're] much less likely to die with a trained expert who knows CPR and has gloves on." Livingston expects illegal sites will replace Insite if it's closed. Before the extension was announced, VANDU and other groups were getting one ready. There are also rumours of a site built by the Portland Hotel Society, a Vancouver-based substance abuse advocacy group.

The future of Insite after December remains uncertain, but regardless of what the government decides, support for Insite remains strong.

Livingston can attest to that.

"[Ottawa is] going to mud-wrestle with us," she says. "I don't think that they want that, because we would win."

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CARLEY FORTUNE PHOTO

The corner of East Hastings and Columbia, where a drug dealer can make up to $35,000 a day.

CARLEY FORTUNE PHOTO

Insite's future might be in limbo, but the community in the Downtown Eastside is determined to provide similar services—legally or illegally—if the site should be shut down.

Getting sick at UVic

The most common student health problems and how to prevent them

by Kim Armstrong

Finding a healthcare provider in a new city can be difficult for students, especially when they live in residence and rely on the bus for transportation. That's where the Jack Petersen Health Centre, the University of Victoria's drop-in clinic, comes in handy.

"Most students we see are students who live in residence and are from out of town," said Dr. William Dyson, director of health services. "They're our most important group, because students who grew up in Victoria have a family doctor in town."

Located on campus amongst the Commonwealth Village residences, the health centre serves over 30,000 people a year. They provide services ranging from emergency first aid and minor surgery to birth control advice, Pap tests and wart removal. The clinic also has four part-time psychiatrists and an orthopedic surgeon available upon referral.

"We can have a person in to see a psychiatrist within a few days or the same day of referral," said Dyson, whereas referral through a private physician can take weeks for an appointment. In addition to waiting for appointments, the amount of travel time for students taking the bus to and from a doctor's office is often longer than the student can afford to spend away from their school commitments.

Apart from convenience, the health clinic provides a major service to UVic.

"We play an important role in monitoring the residence campus for infectious diseases," said Dyson. Treating the early stages of an outbreak limits the number of individuals who become ill, thus reducing the size and impact of a possible outbreak on students' health and academic work.

Illness on campus tends to run in cycles. In the fall, the first wave of illness is generally food-borne, a result of new students who are unaware of proper food handling and now have no one else to put the milk back in the fridge when they leave it out. This is followed by respiratory illness—currently showing up at the clinic—followed by a lull before the first cases of influenza turn up just before the holidays. This continues into the new year.

Head nurse Donna Denman said there are many things that students themselves can do to prevent illness, "simplistic things like getting enough sleep, eating nutritionally and getting enough exercise, and having fun, too." Keeping up to date on routine examinations and immunizations is also important.

Common health problems

There are several health problems that frequent the university student population. Here's a look at some of the most common problems, why they occur and how to prevent them.

STIs

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are the bane of every sexually active person's life. The only two ways to avoid catching an STI are abstinence, a lack of sexual relations, and monogamy with a partner who is STI-free. In any other scenario, there are precautions you can take, but they are not 100 per cent foolproof.

- Always use a latex condom. Both men and women have the right to demand that one is present and covering the pertinent body part during intercourse. Apart from abstinence, a condom is the best protection from STIs.
- Talk to your partner. Ask them if they have an STI. Tell them if you do.
- Urinate after sex to flush out bacteria. Please note: this might help, but on its own it isn't going to stop you catching something.
- Get tested regularly, even if you don't think you have anything. For women, this can be done along with your annual Pap smear test. Get tested when you change sexual partners.
- If you need treatment for an STI, make sure your partner gets treated as well. Otherwise, you might just have to go through it all over again.

KIM ARMSTRONG PHOTO

UVic's health centre is located in the Commonwealth Village.

UTIs

Urinary tract infections (UTIs) are a fairly common problem, and a major cause is sexual intercourse. UTIs are bacterial infections of the bladder or kidneys. Symptoms include a frequent urge to pee without producing much urine, and painful urination when you do go. Kidney infections produce worse symptoms, including fever, nausea and lower back pain. Women are three times more likely than men to get a UTI, because women have shorter urethrae, and since a woman's private areas are much closer together than a man's, it's easier for contamination to occur. Here's what you can do to prevent and treat UTIs:

- Urinate after sex. Again, it flushes out bacteria. Also, tank up on cranberry juice—the real stuff rather than the juice cocktail. It produces hippuric acid, which prevents bacteria from sticking to the wall of the bladder.
- Ladies: when using the facilities, wipe your bits from the front to the back. That way, goop from the back stays in the back.
- Drink water. Getting your eight glasses a day does more than keep you hydrated; it helps flush out your system and any bacteria that happen to be hanging around.
- If you think you have a UTI, see a doctor. Since UTIs are bacterial infections, they can be treated by antibiotics.

Infectious diseases

There are several infectious diseases common among the student population. Pertussis, which you might remember from grade school as whooping cough, is surprisingly common. It doesn't produce the same symptoms in adults as in children, and if it's left untreated, it manifests as a nasty cough that lasts for weeks and weeks. It can impact your academic performance by up to 50 per cent, according to Dr Dyson, which is why it's important to seek treatment.

Meningococcal disease, consisting of meningitis, an inflammation of the brain and spinal chord, and meningococcemia, an infection of the blood and organs, can have serious consequences including a very high possibility of death. Nevertheless, approximately 10 per cent of the population carries the meningococcus bacteria in their nose or throat without getting the disease.

Influenza, or the flu, is another common problem within the university community. All three of these diseases have vaccines available through health care providers, including the clinic, for a slight fee that is usually at least partially covered by your health plan. It is important to get yourself vaccinated, because not only does it help protect you from the disease you are being vaccinated against, it helps the doctors narrow down the possibilities when you do go in with an illness. For instance, the first symptoms of meningitis mimic those of the flu. If you have had your flu shot, your health care provider can eliminate that as the cause of your symptoms and figure out more quickly what you do have. You can help protect yourself against getting infections such as the flu in many ways.

- Wash your hands, especially if you've just coughed or sneezed into them. Don't shake hands with others if you've done that, either.
- Don't share things, despite what your parents may have taught you, at least when it comes to things such as utensils or drinks. Other peoples' spit can make you sick, and yours can return the favour.
- Stay rested, eat nutritiously and get some exercise. The healthier you keep your body, the better it can fight off foreign bugs.
- If you feel like you're coming down with something, stay home. When you're getting sick is not the time to socialize. Instead, use the time to overdose on water and blankets, and catch up on your sleep. You'll feel better for it, and so will your friends.

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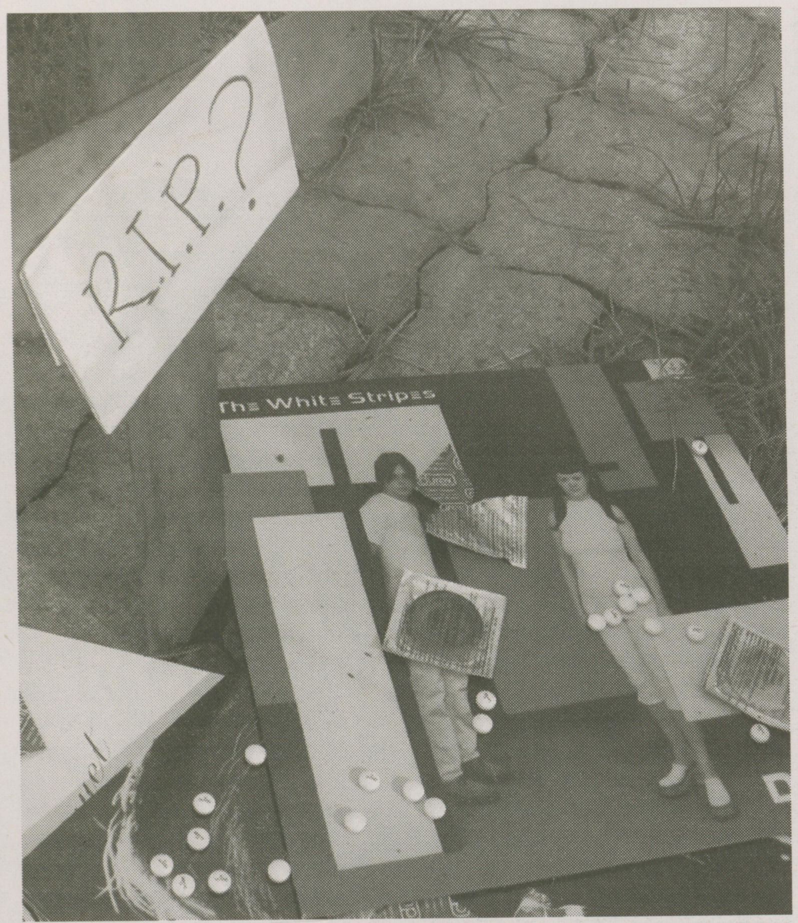

PHOTO BY KIM ARMSTRONG

The movement advocated complete personal freedom.

Spirit of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll

Is the message still relevant today?

by Kim Armstrong

Taken in its component parts, the triumvirate of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll has been held in high esteem since the creation of each. As a unit the phrase has come to represent a lifestyle that stands for more than just its famous excesses.

As a counterculture created to offset the predominant straight-laced, capitalist trend of the '50s, the rock 'n' roll lifestyle pushed anti-establishment sentiment, rebellion and the limits of society.

Behind Elvis' gyrating hips, the Rolling Stones' sexual and pharmaceutical excesses and the destructive performances of The Who lay not only dissoluteness and indulgence, but also aspects of libertarianism and political and philosophical freedom. Libertarianism is, simplified, a political philosophy advocating complete freedom of a person to do what they want with their self and their property as long as they do not infringe on that same right in other people.

The lifestyle of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll co-existed with, influenced and evolved alongside many of the major social movements of the century—women's liberation, black rights, social activism and the Vietnam War protests.

Personal freedom and individual choice are at the root of all these issues: the freedom to do what one desires without restriction by others, in this case on the basis of hatred or discrimination. Even the drugs, the sex and the provocative lyrics of the rock 'n' roll lifestyle pushed for individual freedom. The fact that in this case it involves the freedom to screw or snort whatever one likes does not minimize the value of the underlying message.

The rock movement has spanned almost half a century and has, in various incarnations, worked its way across North America, Europe and Australia. But is it still as relevant a lifestyle for students of today as it was for those of previous generations?

"I would say [it's still relevant], but I think less so than in the previous generation," said Spencer Mayes, second-year-psychology student. "I'd say it's more the Pacific Coast lifestyle ... laid-back, easy-going" that influences students of the 21st century.

"Going by the posters one sees around, rock and roll is still big, and in conversations I've overheard, sex and drugs figure into things as well," said Fraser MacGillivray, fourth-year linguistics and a professional writing student. "I don't think there is a predominant lifestyle among students. I think that there are a lot of people making different lifestyle choices."

"It appeals to a certain group. For some people it's a lifestyle; for some it's not," said UVic student Vanessa Sloane-Morgan.

Despite its dwindling prominence in the counter-culture scene, the underlying message of rock 'n' roll is still going strong. Individuality and personal choice are a guiding factor now more than ever, as diverse groups and movements spanning the full spectrum of opinions and lifestyles fragment alternative culture and give students more opportunities than ever to express themselves.

In the end, the message of rock 'n' roll has outlasted the drive of the movement itself. The very fact that students are making other lifestyle decisions with as much frequency as they are following that of rock 'n' roll means conversely that the message of the movement is only growing bigger.

Although sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll may figure into the lifestyle choices that students face, "they don't always occur in that particular combination," said MacGillivray.

That there is such a choice means that rock 'n' roll is not dead yet, and won't be fading out any time soon.

Avoiding late concerts

K'naan show started hours behind schedule

by Robyn Luff

I hate when shows start late. I don't like it when I'm so tired by the time the headliner comes on I don't care what they do onstage.

I was at the K'naan show at Sugar at the end of September. The tickets said the doors were open at 9 p.m., but I had to wait for half an hour in line to get in. The opener was an MC whose stylings I have to compare to Fred Durst, and K'naan didn't come until an hour after he was finished, at 12:45. He was worth waiting for, but having to wait so long puts a serious damper on the evening.

Although the venue or the production company couldn't have done much when K'naan managed to miss the ferry, his show got me thinking about the issue. There is very little consistency as to when a concert will start, and this leaves audiences in a bit of a conundrum. Do we show up on time, only to have to wait for three hours to see the show? Or do we show up when we think the show should start, only to miss the opening act and the first song of the main performer? What's a concertgoer to do?

There are reasons for these inconsistencies. Liam Lux, the general manager of Lucky Bar, says show times depend on everything from who is performing, to what type of people are coming to see the performance, to how the show was promoted, to what time of year it is, and even what day of the week it is. His comments were generally echoed by Dimitri Demers of Atomique Productions, who says that in addition to these factors, bands are comprised of humans who make logistical errors, like missing the ferry, that push start times back.

I'm a big advocate for tickets that have showtimes on them. The ones that say, doors at 8, show at 10. These make it easy to decide when you need to get to a show, and if, for example, there is time to see an early screening of that new Zach Braff movie before you go. I asked Demers if this was a good idea. His response? It wouldn't be a bad idea, but a promoter or venue isn't usually able to establish exact set times until closer to the actual date of a show.

The venue matters. Open Air shows start on time—I went to see Metric at Centennial Square and the show started as soon as we showed up at 8:45. They rocked it until 11 p.m., and there was still lots of time to go out partying after. It seems obvious to start a show early at a venue where you're not trying to make money selling alcohol, but I'd like it if licensed clubs would start shows earlier, and then have the standard DJ and dancing after. This way their booze sales are still high, and the concertgoers are less tired.

Talking to local club owners and show promoters, I learned some general rules about show start-times. For theatre shows, always show up on time, because if you don't, you will have to be ushered in between songs, and in some cases, will not be let in. As a general public service announcement, Demers added that you should not take photos with your cellphone at a theatre concert—it's rude.

For club shows, generally speaking, doors are at nine and shows should start around 10:30. If you don't care about the opening act, it's safe to not show up until 11 p.m. However, there are some exceptions to this rule. For instance, shows where the audience is older may start earlier, and hip hop/electronica shows may start later. Also, because of liquor licensing, shows on Sundays start earlier as well, usually around 9:30 or 10 p.m.

I guess if I keep going to see live music, I'll have to stop grumbling about all the waiting.

On the other hand, if we all grumbled a little more and a little louder, maybe we could get a little more consistency because, without fans there couldn't be any shows.

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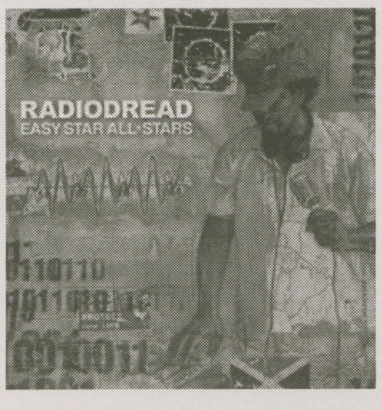
Take it easy

Easy Star All Stars rock their set

by Lindsay Dolling



The Easy Star All Stars' premise alone made me purchase tickets to their show. The All Stars are a reggae band that covers the entirety of Radiohead's OK Computer—this was something I had to see. Oh, and by the way, they'll be playing some Pink Floyd, too.

Not having listened to any of the music before the show, I made my way out on Saturday night expecting to see something cool.

Once inside, it was clear that a full house had turned up for the Victoria premiere of Radiodread. People were packed so tightly that maneuvering to the bathroom was difficult. But there were definitely some good vibrations running through the casual and upbeat audience. The show was put on by the Victoria Ska society and featured Louisiana's Outlaw Nation in the opening slot. The three piece ska/reggae ensemble worked their way through an energetic set that featured a lot of fantastic guitar riffs, bass lines, and blues' twang. It's impossible not to dance to reggae, and the crowd bobbed happily back and forth.

There was a fair amount of waiting before the Easy Stars came on, and a siesta on the couch at the back was necessary.

The Easy Stars really did seem to be an all-star ensemble, and the full seven members were on stage for most of the set. The Reggae collective warmed up with some original material before presenting, for the first time in Victoria, Radiodread—this announcement elicited loud applause from the large crowd, and for good reason.

The Easy Stars mixed up OK Computer into a slamming reggae funk fest without losing any of the beauty or resonance of the original work. Thom Yorke's lyrics were interpreted by three different group members. The band constantly reworked arrangements and there were no breaks between tunes, so the songs were only recognizable half the time. The band broke into Pink Floyd's "Money," which works perfectly as a reggae tune, and after about three minutes, I started to wonder if in fact this was still the same song. The band wound its way back into the chorus to reassure me that yes, it was. One song kept winding into another, to consistent cheering from the crowd. It became clear throughout the evening that Victoria is a town that loves reggae.

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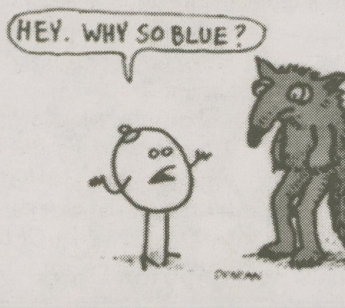
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Nothing like the old-school

by Kevin Ehman

PROVIDED PHOTO

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony are pioneers of gangseter-rap.

When you hear the name Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, what comes to mind? Skipping class in high school, cruising around in a car with the bass too high, smoking blunts and bumping "Tha Crossroads" really loud? Well, that's how it is for me.

The pioneers of gangster-rap harmony are coming to Legends on Oct. 24 on a tour in supported of their new album, *Thug Stories*, and single, "Just Vibe." The show's promoter, UVic student Jason Fung, has brought other big-name acts to town such as Too Short and Naughty by Nature.

When asked what made him want to organize a Bone Thugs show in Victoria, Fung said, "I love old-school hip hop.... It's just one of those names you only get to see once in a lifetime live."

With Bizzy Bone now officially out of the group due to conflict with other members, and fourth member Flesh-N-Bone in a California jail until 2008, making sure the remaining three Bone Thugs could get into the country was a top priority for Fung. The booking agent managed to secure the services of a Toronto-based immigration lawyer who represents big acts who've had legal troubles, such as 50 Cent and Eminem, when they plan to cross the border into Canada. Krazie, Lazy and Wish will all be present and accounted for with legal temporary visas on the 24th.

Opening the show will be an all-local lineup including Langdon Auger, Tassnata, Degree One, CFUV's DJ Stallion and DJ Speedy Shoes. The night, like most big hip-hop events in town, will be hosted by the one-and-only T-Bone the Barber. With the packed roster of high quality of acts, Fung is sure the medium-capacity Legends Nightclub will sell out.

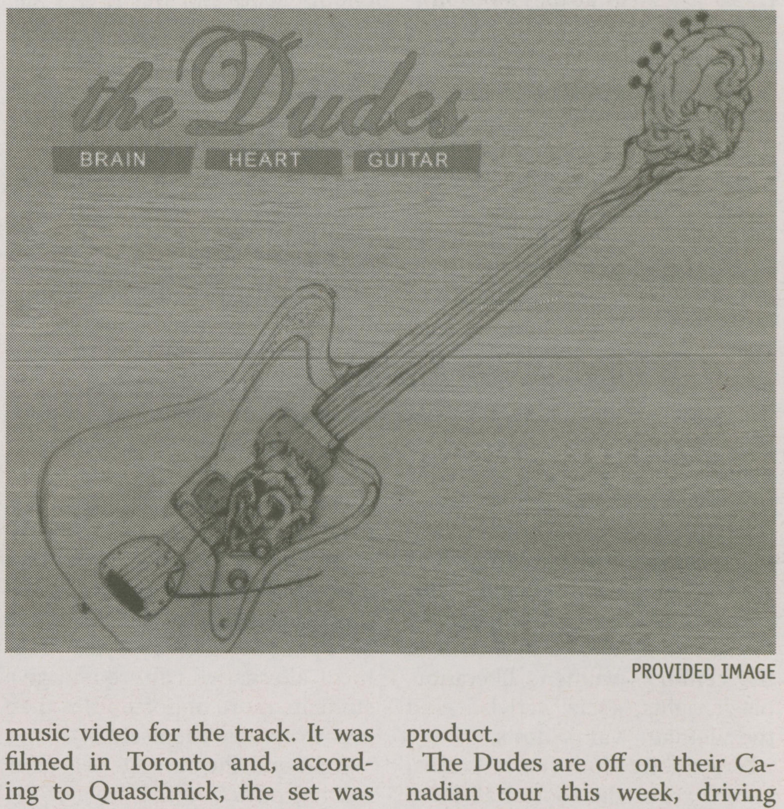
When I told him that I tend to avoid most events of this nature due to my fear of thuggery, Fung assured me that the Legends security team will be out in full force.

If you want the chance to see the only group that recorded songs with Biggie, Tupac and Phil Collins, don't sleep—this show will sell out, and soon. They'll probably hit you with classics like "Tha Crossroads" and "Notorious Thugs."

Often cited as the fastest rappers in the game, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony will put on a live show that is sure to be off the hook. So pile into your Civics with the dual 15" Boston Acoustics in the trunk, twist that blunt and roll down to Legends—here's a chance to bring a little piece of your past into the present.

The Dudes tour to Victoria

by Cassidy Nunn



PROVIDED IMAGE

Be in a band and get girls was the motivation behind the creation of the Calgary-based rock band The Dudes. But The Dudes are no duds when it comes to musical talent.

Front man Dan Vacon and guitarist Bob Quaschnick met in high school and formed the band in 1996. They are the only two original members from the early days; new additions include bass player John Hepkins and drummer Scott Ross.

Their indie-rock sound has been compared to the likes of Modest Mouse, but Quaschnick attributes their influences to Flaming Lips, Joel Plaskett and Weezer.

The Dudes recently released their CD *Brain Heart Guitar*—their first with label Load Music. They recorded the album with producer Russ Broom at the Banff Centre for the Arts. They came out of their stint at the centre with 13 recorded tracks and full bellies.

"We had 52 consecutive buffets," chuckled Quaschnick, "we were all very stuffed."

Mark Bell of the *Calgary Sun* described the album as "front-to-back solid as you'll hear from any signed act in this or any other country, with a number of cuts worthy of heavy summer rotation."

Roger's Wireless picked up on one of the tracks from the album, "Dropkick Queen of the Weekend." They used the song in a commercial for both television and radio and paid for The Dude's first music video for the track. It was filmed in Toronto and, according to Quaschnick, the set was "very professional, with lights and makeup and everything"—a first for the band.

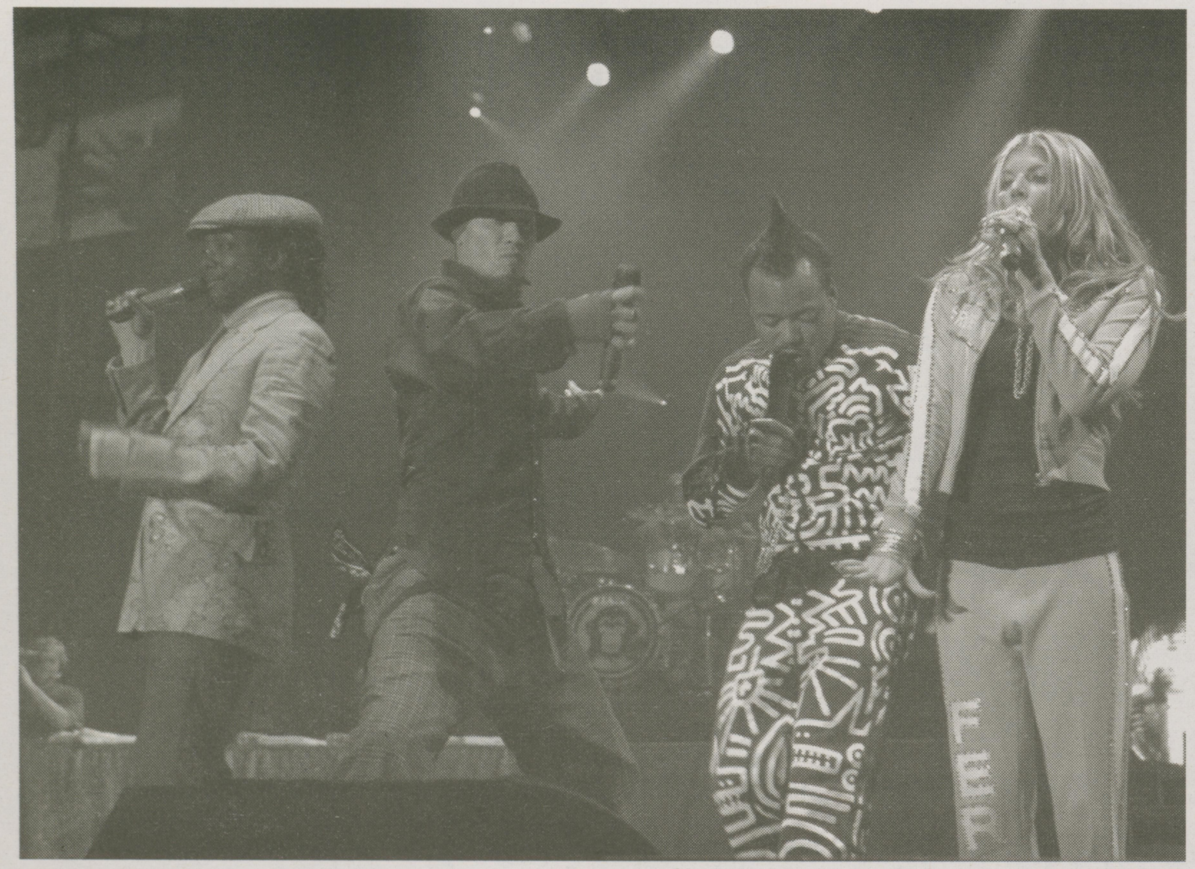
Their second music video for "Do the Right Thing" was filmed on set at a private school in Calgary with the premise for the movie featuring The Dudes as high school toughs who bully the students. In the end, the private school kids rise up against the bullies.

The band decided that with their second video they wanted to go low budget and have more creative licence. In the end, Quaschnick said they had more fun and they are happy with the finished product.

The Dudes are off on their Canadian tour this week, driving west in their big green Chevy van named Gary. They'll be hitting up Vancouver, Nanaimo, Victoria and Tofino and then travelling east as far as Winnipeg. Their stop in Victoria is at Logan's Pub on Friday, Oct. 13th.

The Dudes have entertained Victoria audiences in the past at Logan's and Folk Fest. With music that appeals to both kids and adults, they generally get an audience of various ages.

"Victoria's one of my most favouritest places to play," said Quaschnick. "We're gonna have super fun."



PAT CHARD PHOTO

Black Eyed Peas performed to an audience of over 6,500 last weekend.

Peas, Swollen and Rihanna

Teen Queen Fergie Ferguson drew Victoria's adolescent population out

by Sam VanSchie

Waving their cell phones in the air instead of lighters and screaming blindly, a crowd of over 6,500 welcomed Grammy Award-winning hip-hop artists Black Eyed Peas back to Victoria last weekend.

Our island city was the final stop on their North American tour to promote their most recent of four CDs, *Monkey Business*.

"We saved the best place for last," said Peas front man Will.i.am to fans who shelled out over $55 a seat to see them at the Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre.

Accompanied by their impressive four-piece band of multi-instrumentalists, pulling out every instrument from tambourine to trumpet, the L.A. quartet raise the bar for what is to be expected of mainstream music.

While opening acts Rihanna and Swollen Members relied heavily on pre-recorded vocal tracks (the latter using such technological trickery to replace a missing group member), if the Peas weren't completely live, it wasn't as blatantly obvious as their openers.

Swollen Members have the absence of Moka Only to blame for their reliance on vocal recordings. Rihanna, on the other hand, probably hasn't mastered the art of dancing and singing.

Best known for her night club anthem "SOS," Rihanna shared the stage with her DJ, two booty dancers and a couple of thug backers for her choreographed stage show.

"You guys are making me so happy," she told the crowd. "I was sad all day because today is the last day of the tour."

Changing her scant outfits and matching pumps three times in her 40-minute set, and singing without recorded aid only for a cover of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song," the 18-year-old was probably about the same age as the average person in the audience.

Those in attendance over 25 were often there with their children or younger sibling. Most of the other drinking-aged ladies carried Smirnoff Ice stacked several high in plastic cups and giggled at the pointed flattery coming from the performers.

The epitome of bad pickup lines came from Will.i.am, who proclaimed that the city is full of beautiful women because, "if it weren't, they'd call it Victor."

But bad jokes were better than mistaking the city for Vancouver, which happened more than once throughout the night.

Wherever we were, they had the crowd dancing during their two-hour set with a mix of songs from all of their albums and covers that dated most of their crowd including '80s hits "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N' Roses and the '90s song that just won't die, House of Pain's "Jump Around."

A series of back-to-back high-energy singles was interrupted mid-set as each of the Peas hit the stage solo for a song. This was a popular time for bathroom breaks.

"I could jam with you all night," said lead woman Fergie. But, not wanting to bore the tiny tops off the bar-stars, she jumped into her new solo hit "London Bridge" with a couple of sexy backup dancers of her own.

The rest of the Peas finally returned to the stage to slam through the rest of their singles, leaving briefly and predictably before being hollered back for an encore. The biggest of stage props, a giant inflated monkey head, was unveiled for their last two songs, and all of the performers were called onto the stage to dance and sing for the final song.

Successful and having fun in their seventh year together, the Peas say it hasn't always been easy.

"Our friendship kept us together during the bad times," said Will.i.am. "The good times are because of [our fans]."

Kinnie Starr's performance overshadowed

Starr upstaged by porn-face competition and a Nunavut throat singer

by Kim Armstrong

The throat-singing opener, a porn-face competition and the sexual chemistry between performers overshadowed Kinnie Starr's music on Oct. 9 at Central Bar and Grill.

Opener Tanya Tagaq, born and raised in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, didn't look like much when she appeared onstage. She was perhaps five foot four in her bare feet and wore a floor-length navy skirt and a top that looked like some strange mating of a leather plate-mail tank top and fuzzy-fur angel wings. When she introduced herself, her voice was shy and hesitant, but the sounds that came out of her mouth when she started to sing were not.

Tanya Tagaq is a throat singer. Throat singing is traditionally a game played between two Inuit women wherein each sings to the other the most outrageous sounds she can think of in an attempt to make her opponent laugh. Tagaq, as she is singing solo, must play with a soundman and his impressive array of electronic tricks.

Her opening number was a demonstration of the various noises that can be produced by throat singing, but it slid into a song involving a lot of techno boom-tisk, electronic reproductions of Inuit drums, and vocal echoing that couldn't disguise the grunts, groans, growls and gasps coming from Tagaq's tiny frame.

Partway through what might have been Tagaq's second song, she was joined by the headliner, Calgary native Kinnie Starr. The pair ended up wrapped in each other's arms and singing and gazing soulfully into each other's eyes. I think it was supposed to be a demonstration of a throat singing competition because they ended the song by collapsing into giggles, but there was a strange sexual tension there that had me almost expecting a kiss instead.

Tagaq left, and Kinnie Starr settled in to do her act, a combination of techno-assisted performance poetry and rock-folk techno-ballads in both English and French. A cross between indie and garage, it wasn't bad, although it was nothing like Tagaq's performance.

Starr's best piece was a poem about horseback riding. It was an example of performance poetry that played with the sound and rhythm of the words without relying too much on technical assistance.

Starr was joined again by Tagaq, and they finished the last show of the tour together by thanking their soundman and tour manager, and singing at each other to "get out of my face," or something in that spirit. The stage cleared.

Everybody came back to the stage for the strangest encore I've ever seen. Starr and Tagaq organized a contest with the audience to find the best example of a "porn face" that participants could come up with. A girl who seemed a lot like a friend of the performers planted in the audience won, and all participants were promised free copies of one of the girls' albums after the show.

The final song, before Starr and Tagaq trooped outside to give autographs, was one last demonstration of throat singing that had the two singers down on their knees, gyrating hips, nose-to-nose and forehead-to-forehead. In the wake of the porn-face contest, I was sure that this time they would kiss. I was right, although when it came, it was only a peck on the cheek. I was a little disappointed.

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Embracing suburban brand of beauty

by Victoria Barber

VICTORIA BARBER PHOTO

A suburban bungalow—a beautiful, efficient, sprawling symbol of the middle class.

They lurk just beyond the outer reaches of campus. They haunt your childhood and follow you from town to town. Perhaps they welcome you home at the end of the day. They are the suburbs.

In a lecture on Oct. 4 at the Abkhazi Garden tea room, Larry McCann, professor of geography at the University of Victoria, stood up for the suburbs. For McCann, many of Victoria's suburbs possess their own kind of beauty.

A self-described urban historical geographer, McCann is soft-spoken and passionate about urban planning. He believes that too little has been said or written to promote understanding of these "ordinary landscapes."

"After all, it was my landscape growing up ... I had my first smoke in the Pembroke Woods," McCann said at the sold-out lecture.

McCann said that companies, such as Hudson's Bay, were behind the rise of suburbs in Victoria, working in the public interest and shaping the landscape of today.

The goal was to effectively respond to an enormous, post-Second World War housing boom. Amendments to the National Housing Act in 1954 made it easier for families to get mortgages, and demand for housing exploded. Developers needed to find a way to put up new houses, sewage lines and roads in a hurry.

"The need to be efficient and to bring order was a driving force behind development," McCann said.

Urban planning was required to prevent sprawl in Victoria, but in the early '50s the city lacked the planners to do it. For guidance, developers looked to the United States.

Instead of building houses, developers envisioned little urban utopias, complete communities that McCann called "neighbourhood units." The result was Landsdowne, Uplands, Gorge Park, Oak Bay and beyond.

These neighbourhoods were all built to support families and meet the needs of children. High-density apartments were raised on the outskirts of the suburb to buffer it from the outside. Single-family homes were laid out in a row along car-friendly streets. A school or park was always placed at the centre.

"It's very comfortable, standardized housing that has stood the test of time," said McCann.

Houses were built with clear boundary lines between properties as "segregation is really at the root of the mid-class landscape," said McCann.

Architects borrowed from the U.S., McCann said. The result was California in southwest Canada—bungalows.

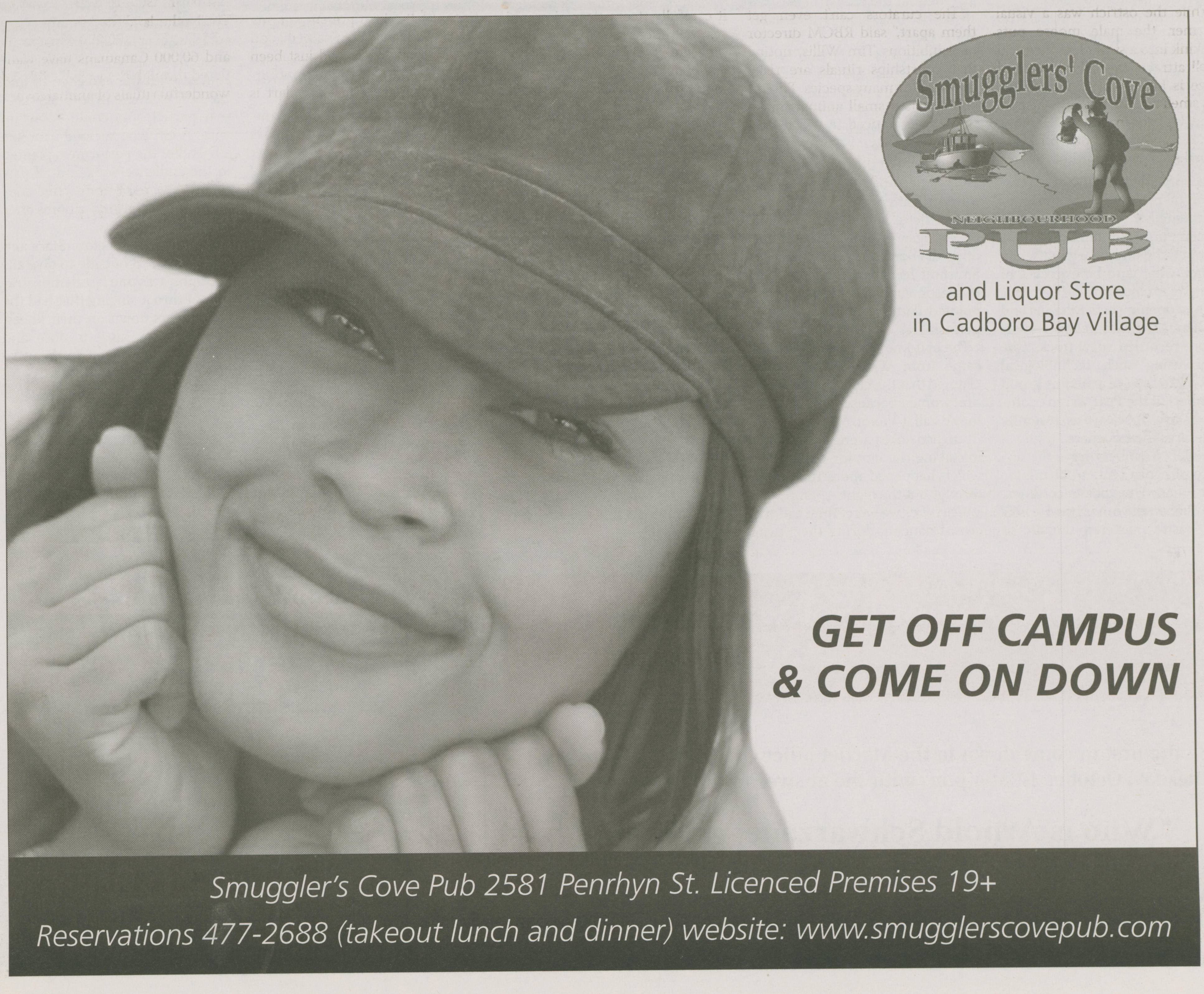
The embrace of bungalows and other '50s-style architecture reflected the prevailing modernist movement in architecture. This style valued simplicity, demanded that form follow function, and enthusiastically adopted new building materials.

One heritage home from this period is the Abkhazi Summer House, where Wednesday's lecture took place. The lecture was part of a series on art, architecture and design.

Valerie Murray, Head Gardener at Abkhazi, said that she was delighted McCann donated his time to speak because she believes it is important to study urban growth.

"We complain all the time what the problems with our city are," said Murray. "Urban planning ... is all about how you choose your city to be."

The lecture was part of the Abkhazi Fall Lectures held at the Abkhazi Garden. Admission to the lectures is $8 and all proceeds go to the maintenance of the not-for-profit garden.



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Kinky stink engulfs love-stricken museum

The Royal BC Museum's new exhibit, *Fatal Attraction*, features animal courtship rituals

by Michelle Martin

MICHELLE MARTIN PHOTO

Among the many strange mating rituals explored at the exhibit, male moose soak their beards in urine to warn off competitors.

The temperature is rising at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) this fall. The museum's playful new exhibit, *Fatal Attraction*, features hot and steamy courtship rituals of over 100 species of mammals, fish, birds and insects.

Looking to learn a few tips on jungle love, I headed to the darkly lit exhibit on opening day with some helpful RBCM staff.

"We're not all that different in what we go through in courting and finding a mate," said Robert Cannings, the curator of entomology.

He was right; it wasn't long before I was gaining some insight into courtship tactics throughout the animal kingdom.

As it turns out, finding a mate is quite a challenge for many species. Just like humans, they must work their best assets. For examples, canaries sing their way to love, while mandrills (a primate closely related to the baboon) take on a sexy new look in mating season as their genitals brighten into colourful hues of red, blue and yellow.

But it's the ostrich that must pull out his moves on the dance floor. A video clip of a male ostrich doing a freaky-looking funky-chicken dance plays on a small screen. Meanwhile, the female ostrich of his affection walked away, unimpressed by his disjointed booty shaking. He was snubbed like a guy with a bad pickup line.

While the ostrich was a visual charmer, the male moose puts the kink into a stink. His chemical smell attracts the lady cows, and urine is his favourite way to get this smell across. To apply the perfume, he pees in the mud, stomps it into a mixture and then rolls in it, making sure a beard of the mix dangles off his chin.

This smell tells other moose to steer clear of him, but if the urine doesn't do the trick, he might find himself in an antler-to-antler brawl. One such brawl left a pair of unfortunate male moose saying "until death do us part" to one another. Two interlocked antlers at the exhibit tell a sad story of tough love—the dueling moose got their antlers locked together and starved to death.

"The curators can't even get them apart," said RBCM director of exhibitions Tim Willis, noting that courtships rituals are risky business for many species. For example, when small animals make themselves noticed to try to land a lover, they often become a target for predators. This trend inspired the exhibit's name.

The RBCM added a selection of B.C. species to the travelling European exhibit, which runs until Jan. 7. A giant pacific octopus kept to the fatalistic theme; an explanatory plaque said that a hungry male octopus might kill and eat a female rather than mate with her. This creepy courting tactic makes this local species the Robert Pickton of the animal kingdom.

Though the child-friendly exhibit carefully steers clear of graphic sex, the liberal Europeans behind the exhibit did include a Freudian phallic symbol, but if you're more of a sex fiend than an animal fanatic, remember to bring your imagination.

Or try hugging the roman snail. When I firmly embraced the human-sized hermaphrodite, as suggested on the display's instructions, I felt a firm pressure on my nether regions. I screamed, and the staff laughed. I had just been poked by the snail's large motorized "love dart." This love dart is part of an intimate dating ritual that precedes procreation.

The exhibit which features scores more interactive stations, was created by a consortium of natural history museums from Belgium, The Netherlands and France.

So far, over 300,000 Europeans and 60,000 Canadians have wandered through the weird, wild and wonderful rituals of animal love.

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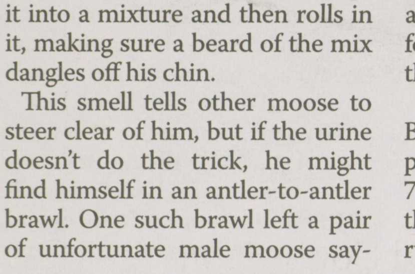

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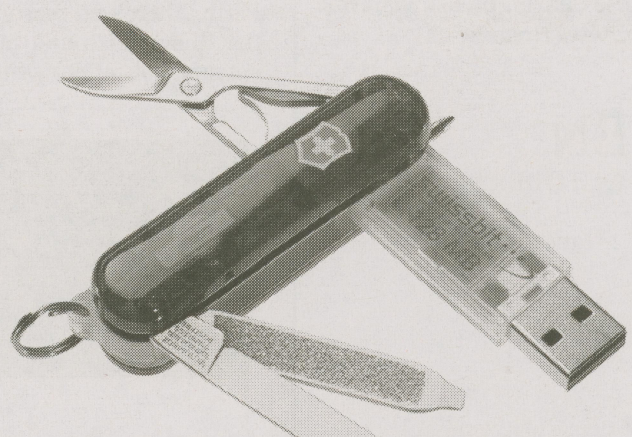

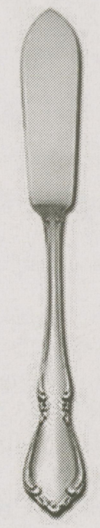

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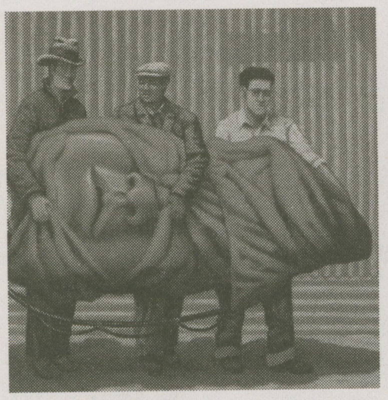


by Laurie Graham

The Mars Volta
Amputechture
Universal Records

The Mars Volta, American sci-fi prog rockophiles, have just put out their third project, *Amputechture*, an album of incredible auditory range. From a single classical guitar plucking out an ominous solo to a speaker-busting catharsis of sound, this album tests the boundaries of everything related to making that music we call rock: rhythm, song structure, vocal and instrumental effects. All of it is, at all times, up for manipulation.

Unlike The Mars Volta’s previous albums, *Amputechture* has no overriding theme. Aside from a few abrupt, jarring transitions between songs, there is a distinct flow to the album, punctuated by some compelling melodic stretches and (dare I say it?) catchy, searing riffs. Or, rather, complicated, syncopated riff scraps. It’s a journey, a 76-minute investment that will not fail to change you in some dark, irrevocable way. Get ready, drones.

Composer Omar Rodriguez-Lopez has a penchant for repetitive harmonies. It became distracting—by the end of the album I was ready to pen a hasty letter to The Mars Volta, telling them to quit it for the love of all that’s righteous. Still, this album allows every listener to take something different away from the experience.

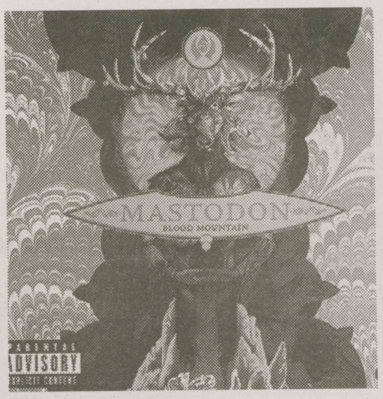
by Brandon DeLyzer

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus
Don’t You Fake It
Virgin

What is a red jumpsuit apparatus? Not even the members of the Florida quintet are sure. But their album is straightforward and tightly produced. Ready for radio, *Don’t You Fake It* is *Jimmy Eat World* and *Story of the Year* with screaming tendencies similar to those of *Under Oath*. Opening songs “In Fate’s Hands” and “Waiting” are layered with crunchy riffs, driving drumbeats and hooky choruses, but by the end of the album I was left thinking, “So what?”

Unfortunately, the generic sound of the album has nothing new to offer the ever-morphing music scene. Most of the tracks fail to stand out as individual, and the album becomes monotonous. Don’t get me wrong; it’s not the first time a band has used recycled rock recipes and failed to produce memorable music. “Cat and Mouse” and “Your Guardian Angel,” the two gentler tracks on the record, give some relief: bright piano, vocal harmonies and soothing strings in the background complement front man Ronnie Winters’ desperate voice. Winters’ lyrics are definitely the album’s strong point; his confessional is uncomplicated by a bullshit-hidden meaning.

Red Jumpsuit Apparatus may not be anything special, but you have to give the boys credit for a solid sound—borrowed or not—and the ability to draw a sizeable crowd at this summer’s Warp Tour in Vancouver. *Don’t You Fake It* may be sincere, but all it gets from me is a “good effort,”



by Martin Hazelbower

Mastodon
Blood Mountain
Warner

Three opuses in, Mastodon has dealt us concept albums on fire (*Remission*), water (*Leviathan*) and now, with *Blood Mountain*, Earth. There’s no reason to doubt that they will round out this elemental collection with an album about air. At that point certain dubious prophesies in the obscure liner notes will be validated: the visionary mercenaries named Mastodon will battle in the sky with astral dragons and a winged minotaur, the guardians of a treasure trove reserved for those who lift metal to the divine. You heard it here first.

Mastodon plays without irony and composes without cheese. The group’s music is brutal, strange and pure.

And it moves. The groove digs deep and its earlier southern-rock inflections are now buried by the throbbing aura of doom metal.

Like Swedish Meshuggah, Mastodon bases its compositions on simple melodies and repetitive riffs. But unlike its Swedish brethren, the group writes vocal hooks that take the forefront on most of the album’s 12 songs. Mastodon has never compromised, but there’s enough melody here to draw in your seventh-grade sister. Forty minutes later, she’ll be breaking Drowning Pool albums over her knee.

Mastodon uses its talent to further its vision, and not the reverse. This is prog metal without the showoff that usually makes prog hollow. To put it succinctly, it is the sound of ground breaking.

by Kevin Ehman

New Found Glory
Coming Home
Drive-Thru/Geffen

2006 has been a good year for a pop-punk bands looking to redefine themselves. It all started in February, when Yellowcard earned credibility with their brilliant album, *Lights and Sounds*, following an easily dismissed debut. Today, it’s the release of New Found Glory’s sixth studio album, *Coming Home*. After nine years as a band, and a stretch that included a few sub-par albums, NFG has come out swinging, ready to re-establish its self as the ruler of its genre.

While far removed from the youthful energy and sincerity of 1999’s *Nothing Gold Can Stay* and 2000’s self-titled release—both seminal albums in the evolution of pop-punk—*Coming Home* sees the band make serious advances in the texture and feel of its music. With the help and direction of producer Thom Panunzio (Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen), NFG has added piano and organ arrangements, female backup and layered vocals, which has led to a more thought-out and developed sound. Of course, the great breakdowns courtesy of drummer Cyrus Bolooki and guitarist Chad Gilbert (who was in Shai Hulud, for God’s sake) are still present, as are the emo-lite lyrics of singer Jordan Pundik. These are the things the band didn’t need to change, and this is what makes *Coming Home* an evolution, not a transformation. Standout tracks include the opener, “Oxygen”, which is possibly the best track the band has ever written, and the lead single, “It’s Not Your Fault.” Shifting guitar work, piano accompaniment and punchy choruses define the album and are perfectly illustrated by “On My Mind.” This track should be the band’s second single because it demonstrates just how far NFG has come, and how much a super-producer such as Panunzio can influence a band’s work.

Coming Home is a radio-friendly pop-punk excursion that will most likely appeal to your younger sister, but also has merit for the more developed music fan (snob).

If you enjoy the antics of current king of the FM, Fall Out Boy, pick this album up and see where it got its inspiration. NFG is one of the originals, and with this album shows the group is still as relevant as ever.

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Campus/Community Radio 101.9 FM

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. THE BE GOOD TANYAS *
   Hello Love (Nettwerk)
2. JUNIOR BOYS *
   So This Is Goodbye (Domino)
3. VARIOUS *
   Mint Records Presents: The CBC Radio 3 Sessions (Mint)
4. AKRON/FAMILY
   Meek Warrior (Young God)
5. MAGNOLIA ELECTRIC CO.
   Fading Trails (Secretly Canadian)
6. DJ SHADOW
   The Outsider (Universal)
7. CLAY GEORGE †
   Cherry Bank Hotel (Copperspine)
8. SUBTLE
   For Hero: For Fool (Lex)
9. OX *
   American Lo-Fi (Weewerk)
10. OOIOO
   Taiga (Thrill Jockey)

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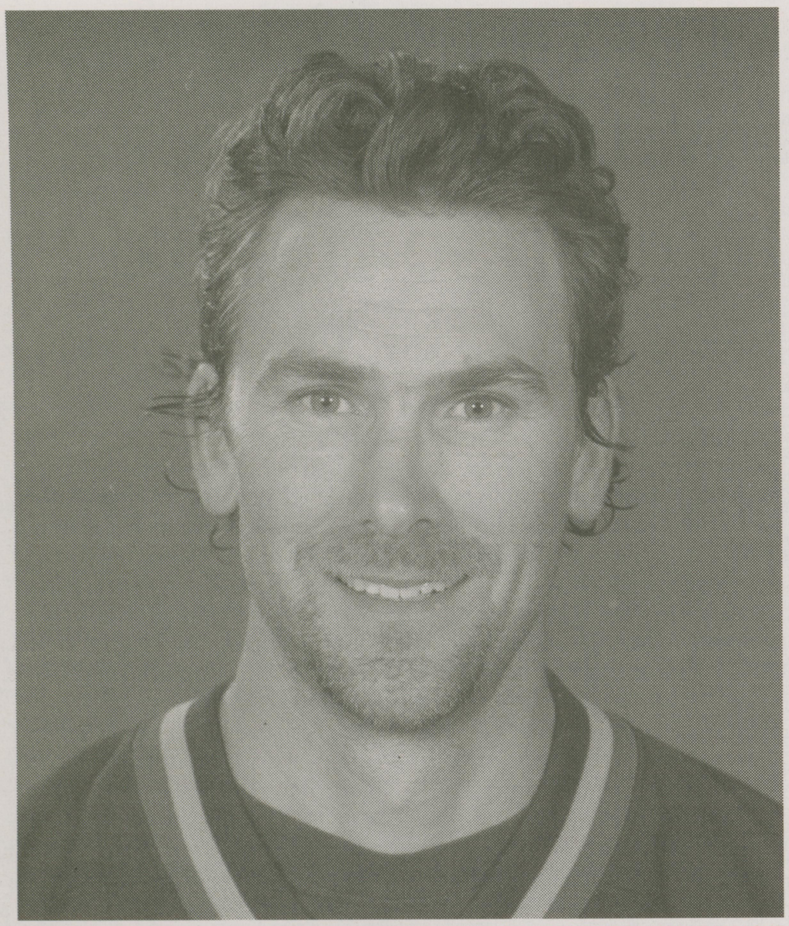


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Nice guy Trevor Linden is the defendant in a lawsuit launched by Red Wing defenceman Chris Chelios.

Media shouldn't tarnish hockey heroes

by Norman Ed Baskerville

Trevor Linden became my hockey hero in the 1994 playoffs. He amassed 25 points in 24 games for the Vancouver Canucks and scored two goals in game seven of the Stanley Cup finals. The Canucks lost by one goal.

In Vancouver's 2006-07 season opener Oct. 5 against the Detroit Red Wings, Linden scored the game winner, his 300th goal as a Canuck.

So what? Didn't Brendan Shanahan score his 600th career goal in the same night? Yes, but Shanahan, unlike Linden, didn't lace up his skates to face an opposing player who is also suing him and accusing him of corruption.

Future Red Wing Hall-of-Famer Chris Chelios has spearheaded a lawsuit against Linden, the former president of the NHL Players' Association. Chelios names three other players in the suit for alleged violations of the union's constitution during the 2004-05 hockey lockout.

Chelios isn't to blame—he's a great player and he's a member of the union, so he's entitled to file the lawsuit. It's the local sports media's ravenous appetite for sensationalism that has this Canuck fan of 20 years looking to pull someone's shirt over their head and beat the puck out of them. I wanted my hockey hero celebrated by media hype, not trivialized.

Like a lot of Vancouver faithful, this season I wanted to embrace the myth of the hockey hero, rather than be told the tale of union grievances. Linden is 36 and possibly playing his last season.

Typically, hockey players obtain hero status by amassing outrageous goal and assist totals, or by leading their teammates through trench warfare to capture Lord Stanley's prize.

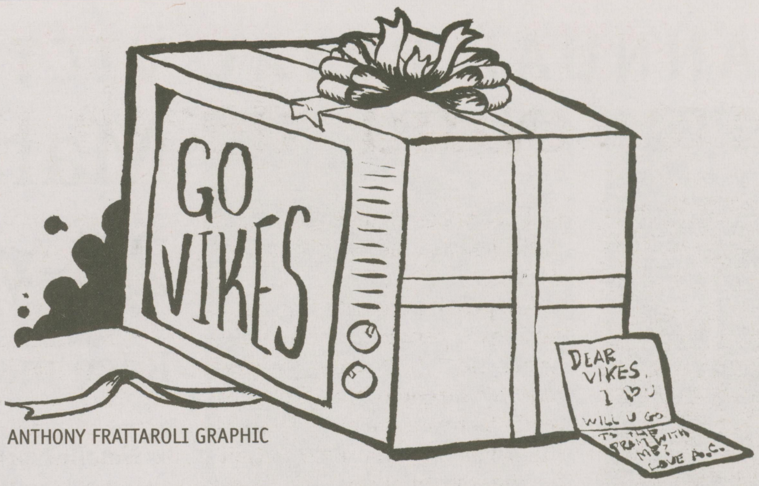
But in the organization's 36-year NHL history, no Canuck has ever drunk champagne from the Cup, and sharp-shooting mortals Markus Naslund and Pavel Bure are the closest the team has come to housing scoring-gods like Lemieux and Gretzky.

In recent years, Canucks teams have been called Cup contenders. But before that they were mere underdogs—and some seasons, just dogs. Then came Linden, a power forward with skill, savvy and determination.

Drafted second overall by the Canucks in 1988, Linden scored 30 goals in his rookie year and helped the Canucks make the playoffs for the first time in three years.

Now in his 18th season in the big league, Linden is slower and less aggressive, but will surely pop in a few goals and assists to add to his career regular season point total of 831 (as of Oct. 10). I'd love to see him skate with the cup in arms before he retires. But if he doesn't, he won't lose the respect of Canucks fans—he'll still be our hockey hero.

And sportswriters and sportscasters should remember people watch hockey for the thrill and drama of the game, not for the non-sport drama that drags the game down.



ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

A-Channel gives Vikes free ads

by David Karp

Forget the billboard across from the McKinnon gym on Ring Road—now there's another way to find out about Vikes games.

The UVic Vikes announced a one-year deal with A-Channel Vancouver Island on Oct. 4 that will see the station air at least 20 ads for each Vikes rugby, soccer and basketball event. A-Channel will also produce the ads.

Special events, including golf tournaments, swim meets and national championships will also receive 20 ads a week for three weeks before the event. Junior Vikes programs, where athletes train children, will receive 10 ads per week.

A-Channel will also provide airtime to try to convince businesses to sponsor the Vikes.

"We're going to air a commercial spot that encourages small businesses to sponsor Vikes programs and Vikes teams," said station manager Richard Gray. There will be at least 10 of these ads per week.

A-Channel is giving the airtime and production services to UVic free of charge.

Gray said the package is worth $925,000 to the Vikes. However, that figure includes the cost of airtime, even though the Vikes will receive airtime which is not for sale to advertisers.

"The airtime that we're giving the Vikes is airtime that is called Canadian content time," Gray said. "It's not time that is available for sale."

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) regulates Canadian television stations and requires each station to play a minimum amount of Canadian programming.

"Typically, a U.S. show will run 44 minutes instead of 48 minutes [like Canadian shows], so there's an extra four minutes of content time that needs to be filled," said Gray. "The CRTC won't allow us to sell that as commercial time, so typically we use it as promo time."

The agreement started from some media executives enjoying a basketball game.

"They approached us," said Pete Lewis, public relations co-ordinator for the Vikes teams. "The whole thing actually started from a basketball game—a phone call I made to [news anchor] Hudson [Mack] to invite him to a basketball game."

"At that game, I was very impressed with the energy and enthusiasm in the room, and the strong community involvement that I saw at the games," said Gray. "It was very clear that the games just weren't for the university community—they were for the broader community as a whole. And I thought that it would be something that would be great for us to get more substantively involved with."

According to Lewis, A-Channel will also run 30-second features about Vikes athletes and produce recruitment videos for the organization.

If all goes well, both parties plan to extend the agreement beyond a year.

"It's the largest agreement our department's ever had, and it's the largest they've ever done," said Lewis. "And that's A-Channel across Canada, not just Victoria."

"We want to do it really well once and look at moving on from there."

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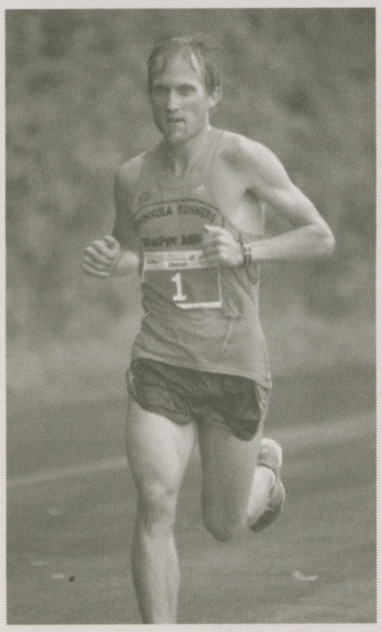

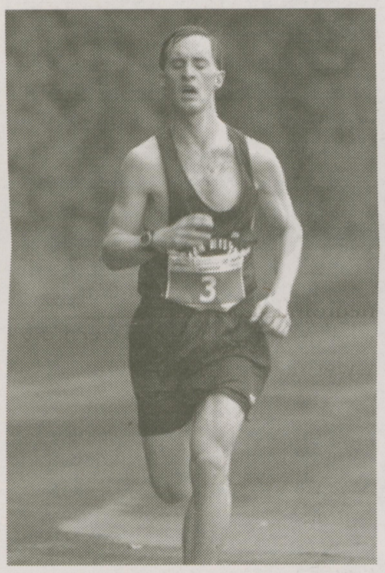

WILLIE LI PHOTOS

Clockwise from top left: Simon Harrington wheels himself to a win in the wheelchair division; *Martlet* news editor Micah Luxen runs her first marathon; Alaskan Shawn Miller races to a second place finish; and Nanaimo's Steve Osaduik breaks the 25-year-old course record by more than two minutes.

Marathon winner breaks 25-year-old course record

Race marks 127th marathon for senior Victoria runner

by Natalie North

It's Sunday morning and Belleville Street is teeming with supporters who put off basting the Thanksgiving turkey to cheer on thousands of runners in the 27th Royal Victoria Marathon.

A little rain doesn't stop over 7,400 runners, walkers and wheelchair athletes from completing the eight-kilometre, half- or full-marathon distances on Oct. 8.

A lithe young woman stretches her hamstrings as she delicately balances against a telephone pole, a marathon-finishing medal dangling from her neck.

A grey-haired couple wraps each other in plastic capes, preserving their body heat after the run while giving congratulations to all of those willing to accept.

A mother hoists her young child atop her shoulders, allowing for the best view of daddy lumbering over the final stretch of the course.

It seems as though everybody in Victoria has laced up both running shoes. Each person's chasing a unique goal through the city's streets, from James Bay to Uplands.

Victoria's 69-year-old Evan Fagan is among the crowd, completing his 16th Royal Victoria Marathon and his 127th marathon to date. Fagan started running for exercise and weight control at age 50, and hasn't stopped. He competed in Portland Oct. 1, and had no great expectations for the Victoria race.

"I run my own race," Fagan says. "I don't run with anyone and I do as I feel." When he isn't mastering 20- to 32-km training runs, he is often found speaking to running groups around Victoria and has this advice to offer: "You have to train. You can't fake a marathon. You only get back on race day what you put in before."

Another finisher is Shelley Thorsteinson, 45-year-old mother of three. She's another marathoner who got involved in the sport for the health benefits and has since become hooked on the runner's high.

"What amazes me is how the inspiration is passed from one to another," Thorsteinson says. Her passion for running goes far beyond herself—it is a family affair. Thorsteinson names her late sister-in-law as her original supporter and motivator in running and continues to draw inspiration from their relationship.

Since Thorsteinson started running, her mother joined a running clinic and completed her first five-km race at age 65. Thorsteinson's husband ran his second marathon Oct. 8, and her daughter signed up for a 10-km clinic.

"I will be running my third marathon," Thorsteinson said before the Victoria event, "and the funny thing is, I know I won't be alone."

Even famed local rower Silken Laumann can be seen treading toward the finish line with her two young children, where participating in the Kid's Run.

It is a milestone event, with some major Victoria marathon records being broken. Steve Osaduik of Nanaimo finishes first in the marathon, setting a personal best of 2:16:49 and breaking the course record, set in 1981 by Tom Howard, by more than two minutes.

New Westminster's Susanne Evans is the first female marathoner to cross the line, with a final time of 2:47:05.

The men's and women's half-marathon is won by two Victorians—Nik Southwell, with a time of 1:08:24, and Cheryl Murphy, at 1:18:01. Local runners David Jackson and Kirsty Smith took home top spots in the eight-km race at 24:43 and 27:34 respectively.

So what's next for the thousands of runners stretching their calf muscles underneath the Thanksgiving dinner table? Some well-deserved rest—for the moment, at least. Next year's race day is fast approaching, and there's no running away from it.

Going the distance—all 42.195 kms

There's more to finishing a marathon than reading running books

by Micah Luxen

There's a big difference between running 34 kilometres on your own time and running a 42-km marathon in the rain.

For months, I pored over training guides, hoping to become some ultimate running version of myself. According to the books, if I can run 32 km, what's another 10?

Turns out, 10 km feels like a lot when you've already been running for four hours.

On Oct. 8, I woke up excited and ready to run my first marathon. I wasn't expecting the traffic jam, due to marathon road closures, which resulted in my roommate and me running across downtown just to get to the start line.

The race began almost as soon as I arrived. Even though it was rainy and cold, I could feel the adrenaline pumping, knowing I was part of a real marathon. It felt good, because I've always been the girl who wasn't skilled at sports. I wanted to be, but I usually found myself sitting on the bench. Now here I was, doing something sporty that few people can do.

I began the race with confidence. The thought that ran the most through my mind was, "Did I eat too much oatmeal this morning?"

It turns out that two servings was just right. I didn't even mind that almost everyone was passing me, because I knew that I, too, could finish the marathon.

There was a point on the course, however, when I started feeling pretty tired. At the 23-km mark, I would have liked to take a long break. At 28 km, my feet, legs and lower back were throbbing.

I would hear other runners making small talk and long talk, which was very strange to me in my moments of exhaustion. I was just not feeling that conversational.

Spectators on the side would yell, "You're looking great!" I wanted to yell back, "I don't feel great—hold me!"

I was surprised at the emotions I felt during the race. I wasn't feeling sad, and yet I had the overwhelming urge to cry. Mostly it came whenever I met the volunteers at the drink stands, which, by the way, were few and far between. I wanted to tell them it was hard running for so long—as if they didn't know.

Thoughts like, "Why am I doing this?" and "What's the big deal about a marathon anyway?" ran through my head.

But with 10 km or less left, I thought, "As if I'm going to quit now." After pushing myself for months with the goal of running a marathon, quitting wasn't even an option.

With six km to go, hope suddenly sprang up, and I knew the distance was manageable. But my goal was not only to run the marathon, but to do it in less than five hours.

At five hours, I knew, runners would be disqualified. I must have looked at my watch at least a thousand times during those last few kilometres, calculating the distance and wondering if I would make it.

And, while I still hurt, at four kms from the finish line I got a new wind and sped up to finish quickly. I saw my boyfriend, who had finished earlier, waiting there for me, cheering for me, and I felt so proud of myself because I had really done it.

I finished in four hours and 57 minutes.

I didn't feel a lot of happiness, but I did feel a great sense of relief.

Now I can't help but wonder if I'm really an athlete, even though I'm not a front-runner. I'll have to sign up again next year.

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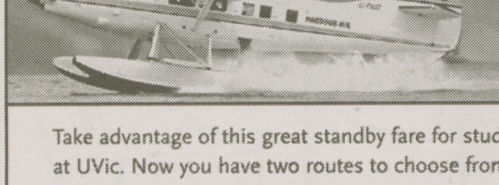

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Captain Finner breaks slump to tie UBC

Vikes draw 1-1 with defending national champions UBC Thunderbirds on Oct. 7

by Wayne Potoroka

On a weekend when most people were around the Thanksgiving table eating turkey, UVic men's soccer captain Kyle Finner was at Centennial Stadium, feasting on the monkey he's carried on his back for the past eight games.

Finner scored his first goal of the season to earn the UVic Vikes a draw against defending Canadian Interuniversity Sport champions the University of British Columbia (UBC) Thunderbirds on Oct. 7.

The T-Birds moved ahead in the 33rd minute when midfielder Michael Elliot slotted home from six yards out. The Vikes looked set to suffer their third straight loss until Finner leapt high over the UBC defense in the 55th minute to nod home a free kick from defender Matt Wilson.

"It was great to get that goal, finally," said Finner. "It was our first one at home and we needed it."

Vikes defender Nick Filipchuk secured the tie four minutes from time when he blocked a point-blank shot that had rookie keeper Dan Kilpatrick beat.

"I was in the right spot at the right time," said Filipchuk. "It just kind of hit me in the chest, and then our goalie was able to clear it."

The Vikes had their chance to seize all three points a minute later when a long ball from Finner sent Sam Wingham clear through on goal. The rookie striker was stuffed by UBC keeper Serge Djekanovic.

Although the team came away with just a tie, Finner was content with the outcome.

"We worked hard, played well. We had our chances to win the game," said Finner. "You can't ask for more except that second goal."

UVic coach Bruce Wilson said he was proud of the way his team had battled their Vancouver rivals.

"Whenever you're playing the national champions, we'll take a point," said Wilson.

Thunderbirds coach Mike Mosher, on the other hand, was disappointed to not walk away with more.

"We were hoping to get three points to put ourselves one point short of first," said Mosher. "We had enough chances with balls in and around the six-yard box that we just didn't get to. Unfortunately, it's been a recurring theme for us. We just don't have that last little bit around goal to go and finish things off."

The tie leaves UBC in fourth place in the Canada West division with a record of 4-3-1. The Vikes remain in sixth at 2-2-4, seven points back from a playoff spot.

UVic's next game is Oct. 14 at Centennial Stadium against the 0-1-7 University College of the Fraser Valley Cascades.

UVIC
14
PENINSULA
3

SHARON TIFFIN PHOTO

UVic captain Kyle Finner (left) takes on an opponent in an exhibition game. Finner scored his first goal of the season en route to a 1-1 tie with defending national champions UBC Thunderbirds.

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www.zenwest.ca

It's Women's History Month. Please join the University Women's Club of Victoria, 7:30 p.m., Rm., 159, Wednesday, October 18 in the Murray and Ann Fraser Building at the University of Victoria to hear Jody Paterson, columnist for the Times Colonist and Executive Director of PEERS (Prostitutes Empowerment Education Resource). Google us! We welcome new members.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA VICTORIA BRANCH OCTOBER 2006 MEETING. Oct. 17, 2006, Please note: start time has been changed to 7:30 p.m. Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Road. Speaker: Kathryn Bernick. Dating Style: Archaeological Baskets from Wet Sites in the Coast Salish Area.

Jung Society lecture: Archetypes. Catherine Ellis, Friday, October, 2006 at 7:30 pm, David Strong Building, C116. Members, $10; non-members, $15; students, $5. Phone 360-2040 for information.

AustraLearn Info Session: Learn about study and internship opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. October 30, 2006. Representatives from other Australian universities will talk about graduate options in Australia. Location: Clearihue A207 Time: 3:30 p.m. RSVP: please rsvp for these sessions at: http://www.careerservices.uvic.ca/events

Thursday October 26, 6 p.m. Peter Sankoff on Animal Rights Laws in New Zealand and what we can learn from them. Presented by the UVic chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Room 158 Fraser Building, UVic, with a reception to follow. Info: rachelsqf@gmail.com

The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in October and throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

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AWESOME ROCK SHOW. The Victoria EVENING Newcomers Club FOR WOMEN meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at local restaurants—reservations are required. Call Peggy at 744-1823 or Valerie at 477-8100 for more information.

Ready?! Explore the joys of dancing in contact with others. Contact Improv Dance Intensive with Martin Keogh. All levels! November 22-26. Register by October 25: $300. After: $350. Questions? Helen: 479-6633, tchelen@gmail.com

Building Better Relationships - Free workshops in Oct and Nov on Tues and Thurs evenings, 7 to 9 at Dispute Resolution Centre, 108-1218 Wharf Street. Topics include Healthy Communications, Strong Emotions, Conflict Management and Successful Co-Parenting. Call 386-4331 to register.

Roxxylde performing October 27, 2006. Royal Canadian Legion, 716 Station Ave. Langford. Come celebrate Halloween, costume prizes, 50/50 draw, silent auction. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. cdbasso@shaw.ca or racheldj@uvic.ca

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in volunteering in radio? Behind the scenes or on-air? CFUV 101.9 FM is UVic's campus/community radio station broadcasting from the campus at 2290 watts of power. We are looking for those interested in producing or helping out in regards to public affairs, native student, women or queer issues, but everyone is welcome to apply. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kate Hollefreund at vol4cfuv@uvic.ca or drop by the station in the SUB B006, Monday to Friday 10-5 p.m.

UVIC PRIDE VOLUNTEERS! Meet fun folk, help out in the community, compare fashionable frippery. Staff the office, mosey to events, or just join the list serve. uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca

Notice to students in Education, Geography or Biology: Excellent volunteer opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. For more details email Joan at: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca.

September is Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month! There are 179 people in the Vancouver Island region who are registered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC). By printing the PSA in your publication, you are supporting the people in your community who have neuromuscular disorders. Your local Vancouver Island MDC Chapter will be organizing community fundraisers to raise money for research, equipment, and services for people living with neuromuscular disorders. Please support them. 1.866.MUSCLE.8 www.muscle.ca

CUTS FOR A CURE—Help raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. On the Fringe Hair Design is holding a cut-a-thon on Sunday Oct. 22 from 10-2 p.m. Come get your haircut for a minimum donation od $10. All proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

HEY YOU

Last chance for underpants—Get 'em while they're hot and sticky.

Naked pictures of your mother!

Larissa, you have my birth control pills—I could have used them last night. Bring them back so I can get my freak-on.

The *Martlet* sucks ass, but at least they use a straw.

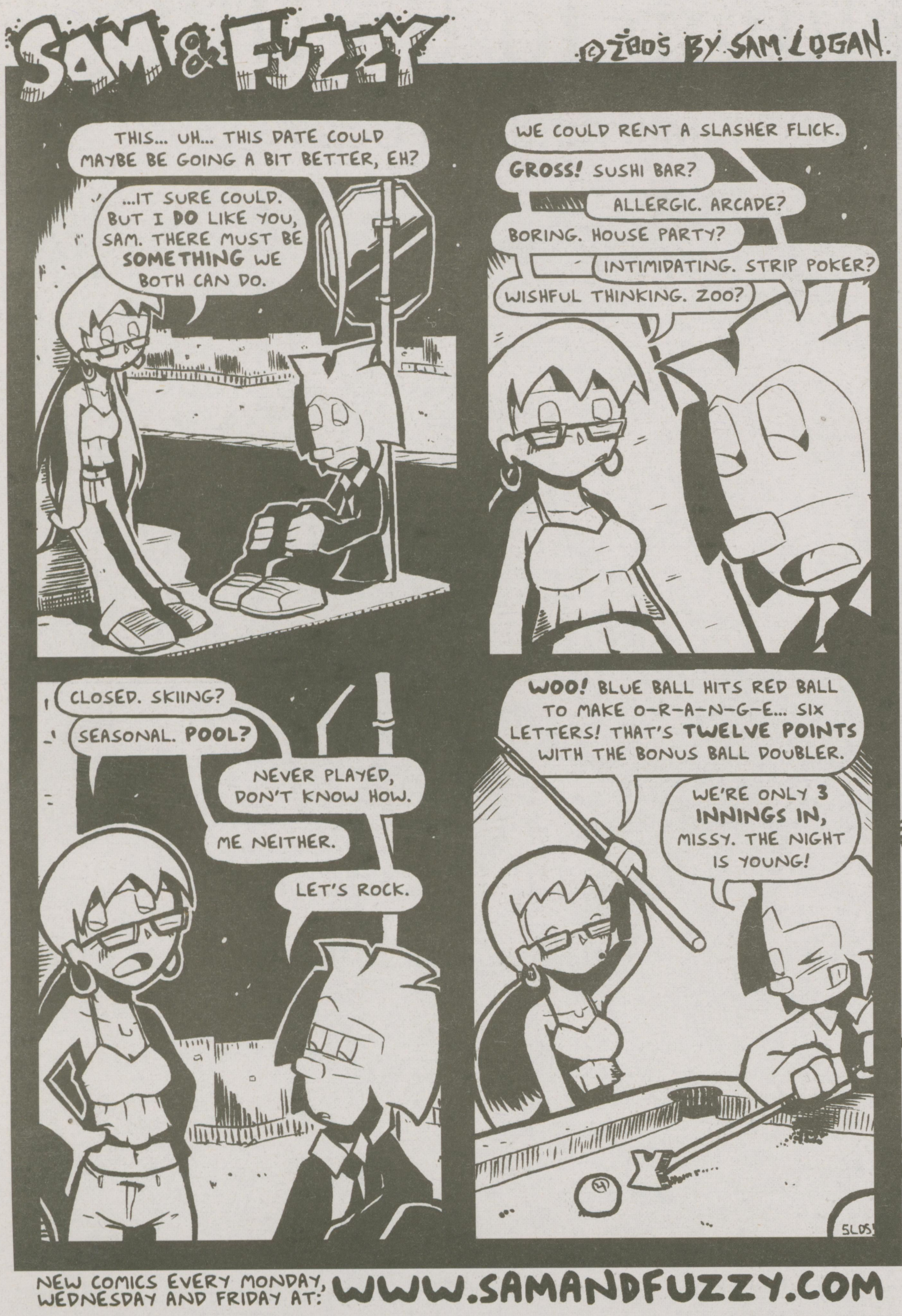
Congradulations to Dan Harder on getting the job in England, you've made your mother and I very proud—Ed.

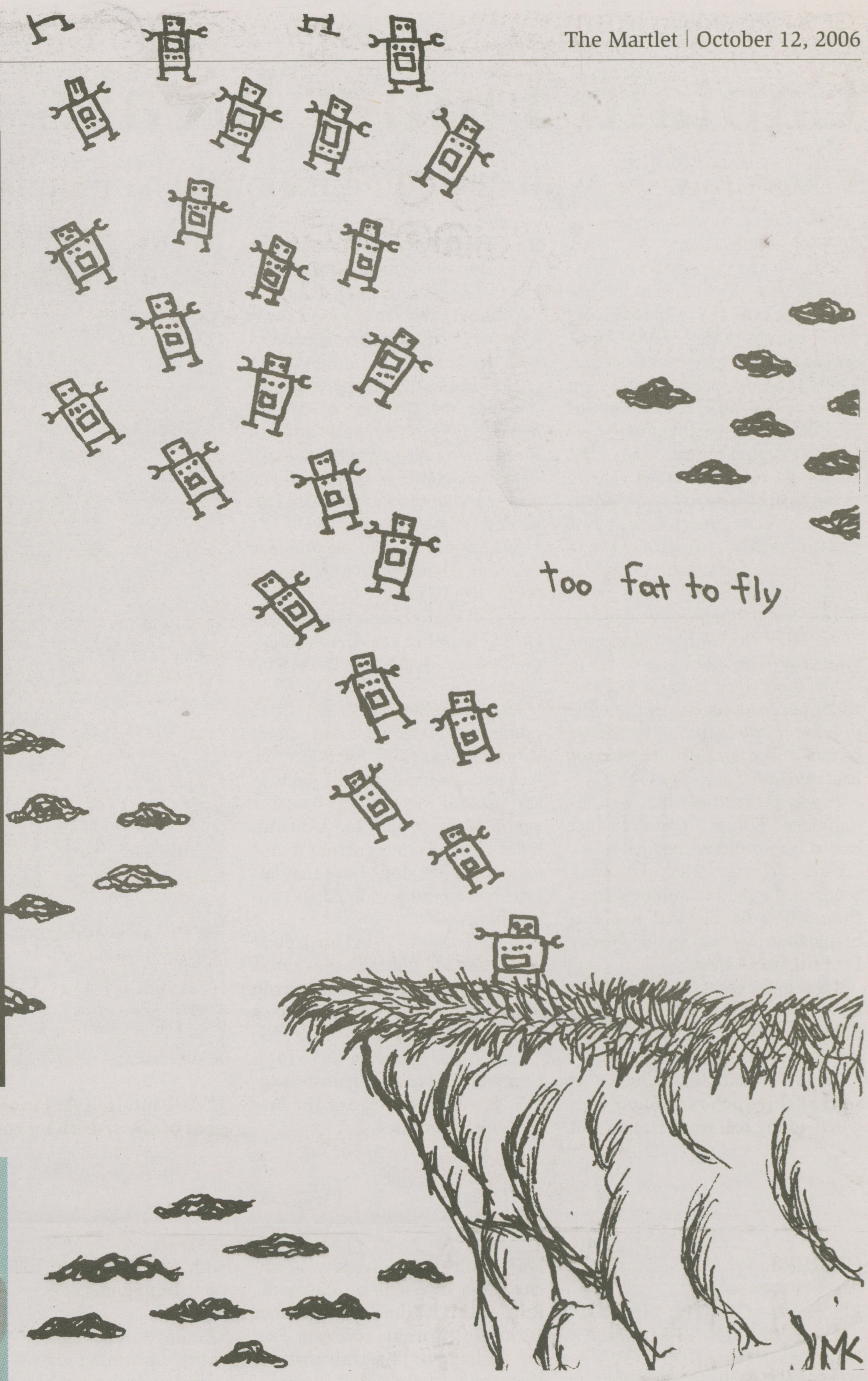
Melinda and Bobby, please take the hint and move out of my house, you are the worst roommates ever!

Some people call me the space cowboy, some calll me the gangster of love, some people Maurice, 'cause I speak of the pompatous of love.

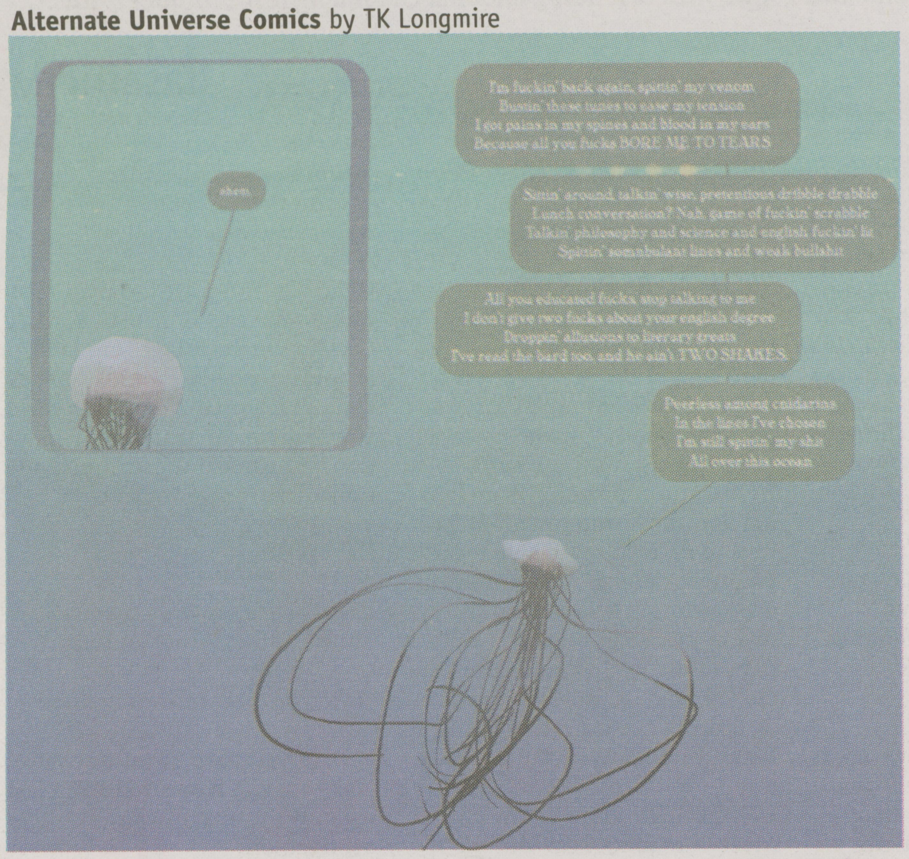
CLASSIFIED RATES

Businesses: $6/line
Non-students: $2/line
Students & clubs: $2/issue
Hey You: Free!

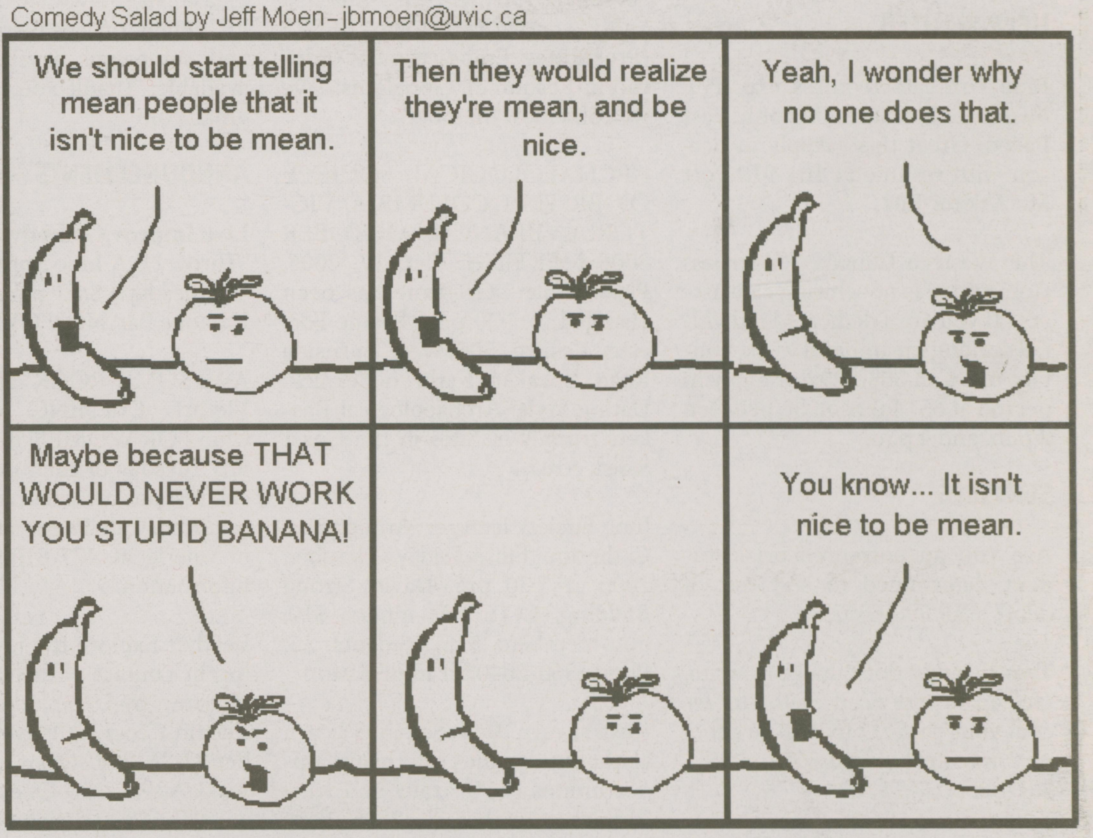

SAM & FUZZY
©2005 BY SAM LOGAN.
THIS... UH... THIS DATE COULD MAYBE BE GOING A BIT BETTER, EH?
...IT SURE COULD. BUT I DO LIKE YOU, SAM. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE BOTH CAN DO.
WE COULD RENT A SLASHER FLICK.
GROSS! SUSHI BAR?
ALLERGIC. ARCADE?
BORING. HOUSE PARTY?
INTIMIDATING. STRIP POKER?
WISHFUL THINKING. ZOO?
CLOSED. SKIING?
SEASONAL. POOL?
NEVER PLAYED, DON'T KNOW HOW.
ME NEITHER.
LET'S ROCK.
WOO! BLUE BALL HITS RED BALL TO MAKE O-R-A-N-G-E... SIX LETTERS! THAT'S TWELVE POINTS WITH THE BONUS BALL DOUBLER.
WE'RE ONLY 3 INNINGS IN, MISSY. THE NIGHT IS YOUNG!
SLOS
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM

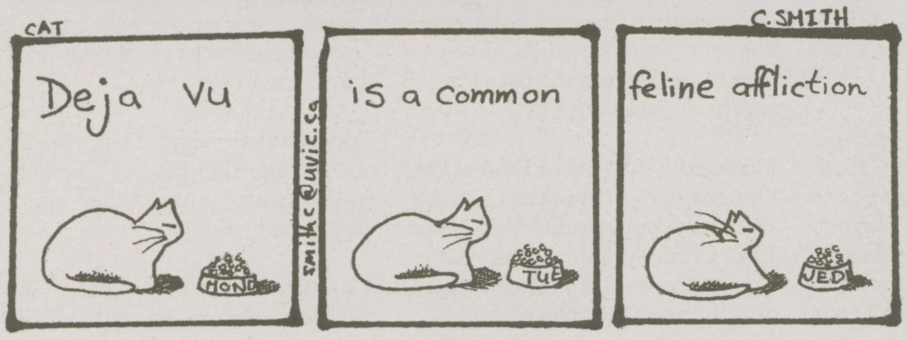

too fat to fly
JMK

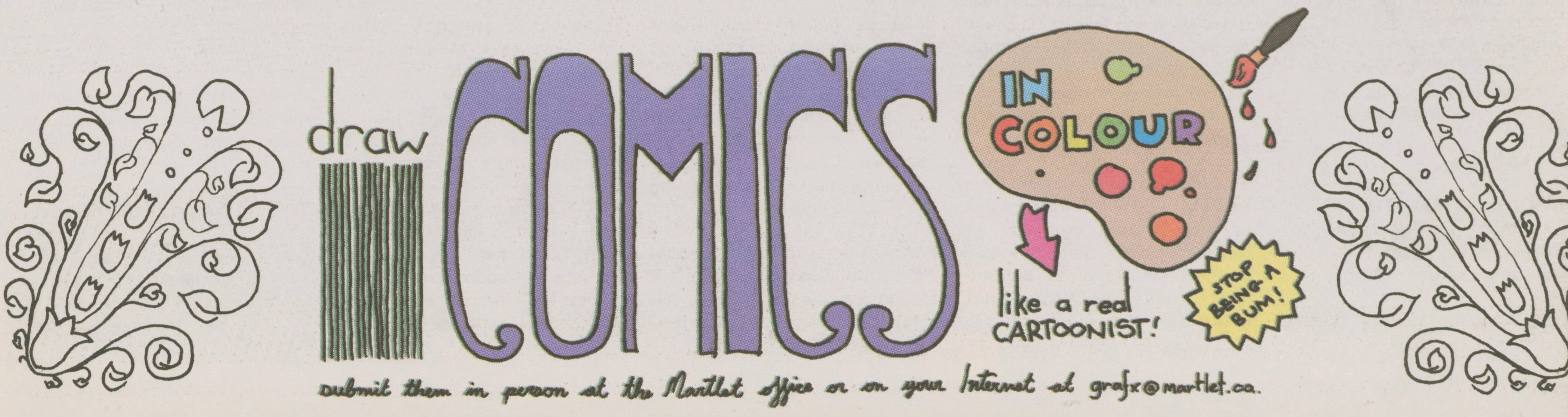
Alternate Universe Comics by TK Longmire


I'm fuckin' back again, spittin' my venom
Bustin' these tunes to ease my tension
I got pains in my spines and blood in my ears
Because all you fucks BORE ME TO TEARS
Spittin' around talkin' wise, pretentious dribble drabble
Lunch conversation? Nah, game of fuckin' scrabble
Talkin' philosophy and science and english fuckin' lit
Spittin' somnabulant lines and weak bullshit
All you educated fucks stop talking to me
I don't give two fucks about your english degree
Droppin' allusions to literary greats
I've read the bard too and he ain't TWO SHAKES
Peerless among cnidarians
In the lines I've chosen
I'm still spittin' my shit
All over this ocean

Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen - jbmoen@uvic.ca


We should start telling mean people that it isn't nice to be mean.
Then they would realize they're mean, and be nice.
Yeah, I wonder why no one does that.
Maybe because THAT WOULD NEVER WORK YOU STUPID BANANA!
You know... It isn't nice to be mean.


CAT
C.SMITH
Deja vu
is a common
feline affliction
smithc@uvic.ca
MON
TUE
WED


draw
COMICS
IN COLOUR
like a real CARTOONIST!
STOP BEING A BUM!
submit them in person at the Martlet office or on your Internet at grafx@martlet.ca.